

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

TO:
**Local News, Business and
assignment editors**

North District Media Contact - Modesto
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central District Media Contact - Fresno
Janelle Schneider
(559) 230-5853

South District Media Contact - Bakersfield
Brenda Turner
(661) 392-5500

Spanish-language contact
Claudia Encinas
(559) 230-5851

Commute Green registration deadline nears *Annual contest uses friendly competition to convey Healthy Air Living message*

Reducing commuter emissions while having fun is the aim of the annual Commute Green in the San Joaquin Challenge, a friendly competition between Valley organizations to encourage ridesharing and other alternative commute methods.

The deadline to register for this year's challenge is Sept. 10. The challenge runs Sept. 14-18.

"This contest is a unique, fun way to encourage employers to bring commute alternatives to their workplace," said Samir Sheikh, the District's director of emission reduction incentive programs. "It's also an ideal way for employees to try out a commute alternative they've been considering."

Each day, more than 93 million miles are driven throughout the Valley -- many of them commuter miles with one passenger per vehicle. Vehicle use is a significant source of pollution and alternative transportation is one way to reduce those emissions.

Commute Green in the San Joaquin highlights alternative commute options by encouraging friendly competition among Valley businesses. Some eligible commute alternatives are using public transit, carpooling or vanpooling, walking, biking.

Any organization in the Valley air basin is eligible to participate. This includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties. Commute teams will compete against similar-sized organizations: small (5-20 employees); medium (21-100); and large (more than 100 employees). Winners in each category are awarded prizes and recognition on www.healthyliving.com.

To participate, teams must first designate a captain, who obtains authorization from their employer to act on behalf of their organization. Participants must be at least 18 years old. For complete rules and information, visit <http://healthyliving.com/upcoming-events/CGISJ/index.aspx#Information>.

For additional information, call 559-230-6000. The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern. Visit www.valleyair.org to learn more.