

# News Release

4-15-09

For Immediate Release



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

**TO:**  
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**Business and assignment**  
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## **Kids for Clean Air brings in thousands of pledges** ***27 Valley classrooms to be recognized*** ***at April 16 board meeting***

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHO:** Winning fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms

**WHAT:** Awarding prizes for Winter Healthy Air Living pledge card contest

**WHEN:** Air District Governing Board meeting, Thursday, April 16, 2009  
Item scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

**WHY:** These students and their teachers gathered a total of 7,455 Healthy Air Living pledges from family, friends and members of their communities

A Valley-wide contest of fourth- and fifth-graders brought in thousands of clean-air pledges, and iPod shuffles to the winning classrooms, as well as public thanks by the Air District's Governing Board.

The contest, Kids for Clean Air, is a key part of Healthy Air Living's winter program, and encourages elementary-school students to obtain clean-air pledges from their friends and families in order to reduce emissions. The contest was open to every fourth- and fifth-grade classroom in the eight-county air basin. A total of 1,776 students participated, gathering 7,455 pledges. Winners were selected in each county based on the number of pledges per student obtained. Each student in winning classrooms will receive an iPod shuffle and their teachers will receive \$250 resource grants.

"The energy and enthusiasm of the Valley's schoolchildren are contagious, and have really motivated people to take another look at their habits and change them up for the sake of clean air," said Jaime Holt, the District's chief communications officer.

Pledges obtained included checking before they burned wood in their home fireplaces during winter; reducing the number of vehicles trips a family takes during the week; adjusting home thermostats to 78 degrees or higher during summer; and avoiding the use of drive-through restaurants.

The classrooms will be recognized at the April 16 Governing Board meeting, videoconferenced between Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield.

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## **KIDS FOR CLEAN AIR WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

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Healthy Air Living is a year-round program aimed at reducing emissions by making air quality a factor in daily decision-making by Valley residents, businesses and organizations. The District sponsors a variety of events and activities to support Healthy Air Living, including an amateur video contest now in progress (for more information, visit [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com)).

“These students exemplify the best of the Valley’s resourcefulness and willingness to become the solution to air pollution,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “Our future success in reaching our clean-air goals depends on each of us, and these students are leading the way.”

The winning schools, classrooms and teachers, by county, are:

### **FRESNO COUNTY**

**Burrel Elementary:** Fourth grade, Mary Funk

**John Burroughs:** Fifth grade, Susan Sullivan

**Century Elementary:** Fourth grade, Kimberly Bullfinch; Fifth grade, Robert Millar

**A.E. Mills:** Fourth grade, Diana Lopez; Fourth grade, Susan Ginise; Fifth grade, Erica Correia; Fifth grade, Ms. K. Hurt; Fifth grade, Terri Chavez-O’Donnell

**Sunset K-8:** Fourth grade, Lorena Navarro

**Wilson Elementary:** Fifth grade, Kelly Lee

### **KERN COUNTY**

**Bear Mountain:** Fourth grade, Christie Caldwell; Fourth grade, Jim Ventura; Fifth grade, Alicia Gama

**Cesar E. Chavez Science Magnet:** Fourth/fifth grades blended, Mrs. Woods

### **KINGS COUNTY**

**Admiral Akers Elementary:** Fifth grade, Michael Hall

**Frontier Elementary:** Fifth grade, Tara Hall

**Meadow Lane:** Fourth grade, Deborah Weaver

### **MADERA COUNTY**

**Rivergold Elementary:** Fourth grade, Nancy Coulombe

### **MERCED COUNTY**

**Yamato Colony School:** Fourth grade, Filiberto Fuentes

### **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

**Cleveland Elementary:** Fourth grade, Adrian Nickols

**George McParland Elementary:** Fourth grade, Shirley Kreunegel

**Victor Elementary:** Fifth grade, Erica Haley

### **STANISLAUS COUNTY**

**Agnes Baptist Elementary:** Fifth grade, Gary Carpenter

**Sisk Elementary:** Fourth grade, Christine Collier

### **TULARE COUNTY**

**Buena Vista Elementary:** Fifth grade, Terry Bessinger

**Strathmore Elementary:** Fourth grade, Ernesto Hernandez

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**KIDS FOR CLEAN AIR WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

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For more information about Healthy Air Living, visit [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com) or call a District office: in Modesto (209) 557-6400; in Fresno (559) 230-6000; or in Bakersfield (661) 392-5500.

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](http://www.valleyair.org) to learn more.