

News Release



>>City, features, business and assignment editors<<

North District Contact
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central District Contact
Janelle Schneider
(559) 230-5853

South District Contact
Brenda Turner
(661) 326-6900

Board approves \$2 DMV surcharge

Dec. 16 (Fresno, CA) – A surcharge of \$2 per vehicle registered in the San Joaquin Valley will help school districts clean up their bus fleets and help farmers replace dirty, diesel-powered irrigation pumps with cleaner engines, among other much-needed air-quality projects in the Valley.

The additional surcharge, collected through annual vehicle registrations in the eight counties of the Valley Air District, was approved by the District's Governing Board by a 10-1 vote today.

"This small amount for each vehicle represents much-needed help for farmers, school districts, and others in the Valley to be able to switch to cleaner technology," said Dave Crow, the District's air pollution control officer.

The District does not have the authority to set tailpipe-emission standards for motor vehicles, which cause more than half of the Valley's ozone (smog) problem and a significant portion of the particulate problem. But since the early 1990s, the state Department of Motor Vehicles has authorized state air districts to collect a surcharge for emission-reduction projects. Since 1993, the Air District has invested more than \$43 million from motor-vehicle surcharge fees into incentive programs that provide cities, counties, industry and individuals with funds for pollution-control projects.

Today's surcharge increase brings the total annual air-quality surcharge to \$7 per vehicle. Funds from the additional \$2 surcharge will be used for a variety of emission reduction projects, including cleaner-emission school buses, locomotives and other transit vehicles, and stationary and mobile agricultural equipment. The new surcharge will enable the District to leverage an additional \$7 - \$10 million annually in state grant funds to Valley businesses, organizations and individuals.

"It's a tremendous payoff to all Valley residents for such a small personal investment," Crow said.

- more -

Board approves fee increase

SJVAPCD

Page 2

Dec. 16, 2004

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern. For more information, call any of the Air District's offices in Modesto (209-557-6400), Fresno (559-230-6000) or Bakersfield (661-326-9600), or log onto [www. Valleyair.org](http://www.Valleyair.org).

- 30 -