

# News Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

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

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## **Air District offer grants to reduce pollution** *REMOVE II program helps fund vanpools, telecommuting*

**March 31** (Fresno) – Applications are now available for grants toward emission-reducing activities, such as vanpooling and telecommunications, from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The REMOVE II program, modeled on an earlier Air District program, will distribute about \$3.7 million to Valley individuals and organizations to reduce vehicle emissions that foul the Valley's air. Funds will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant money is derived from a state Department of Motor Vehicles registration renewal surcharge.

"This sort of program has been very successful in the past because it addresses a number of transportation alternatives," said Jaime Holt, the District's Public Education Administrator.

Among the sorts of activities the District will provide money for are:

- Public transportation and commuter vanpool passenger subsidies;
- Telecommunications, including videoconferencing, distance learning and Internet-based business transactions;
- Bike path construction;
- Alternative-fuel mechanic training;

"This program works because it provides direct measures for people who want to make a contribution to improving the Valley's air quality," said Mary Gonzalez, the District's REMOVE II program coordinator.

A streamlined application process and shortened processing times make it easy for Valley applicants to benefit from REMOVE II. Interested parties can get applications several ways: through a dedicated phone number, 559-230-5858; at the Air District's website, [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org); or by calling any of the District's offices in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) and Bakersfield (661-326-6900).

The District will accept completed applications beginning April 22.

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