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For Immediate Release**



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Court backs Air District in dairy lawsuit

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's regulation of confined animal facilities fully meets its legal obligations and fulfills state health requirements in reducing ozone emissions from dairy operations, the Fresno County Superior Court has ruled.

The lawsuit, filed in July 2006, was brought against the District by a Shafter-based group, the Association of Irrigated Residents. The group raised numerous challenges alleging that the District rule failed to comply with the requirements of the state law pertaining to the regulation of confined animal facilities. The court decision issued on August 10 ruled in favor of the District on every issue raised in the lawsuit.

"The District rule in question is the most expansive and strongest regulation ever imposed on the dairy industry anywhere in the nation," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's Executive Director. "With public health being our primary focus, we exercise the utmost diligence and research in crafting our regulations, and this one is no exception."

Rule 4570, Confined Animal Facilities, was adopted by the District's Governing Board in 2006. It reduces volatile organic compounds (VOCs, a main component of ground-level ozone) by 21 tons per day District-wide. This is equivalent to removing one million passenger vehicles off Valley roads. The rule also reduces ammonia emissions by 100 tons per day from dairies and other confined animal facilities throughout the Valley. The rule achieves these reductions by requiring dairies to exercise best waste management and feeding practices and controls that minimize all gaseous emissions into the atmosphere.

Rule 4570 is an integral component of the District's "fast track" strategy for reaching the federal health-based standards for ozone years earlier than federal deadlines.

The Valley has some of the toughest regulations in the nation for the control of emissions from industrial and agricultural sources of air pollution. The primary focus of the District's "fast track" strategy will be regulatory and incentive-based measures aimed at reducing emissions from mobile source (cars, trucks, and locomotives) that generate 80% of the Valley's smog causing pollutants.

The District will be holding a two-day symposium in Visalia (October 3rd and 4th) to outline this "fast track" approach. For more information on the symposium or other District information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org> or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400; Fresno (559) 230-6000; and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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