

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

TO:

**Local News, Business and
Agriculture sections**

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Group meets today to discuss dairy air permits

(Fresno, California) – An advisory group addressing air-quality permits for dairies meets today for the first time in Fresno.

The 12-member Dairy Permitting Advisory Group (DPAG), including representatives from the dairy industry, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, local community group representatives and scientific experts, meets today at the Air District's Fresno office. DPAG was formed last September as part of a lawsuit settlement between the Valley Air District and two key dairy industry groups - the Western United Dairymen and the Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Inc.

"This is a very knowledgeable group on dairies and air-quality issues, and we believe its members are committed to working cooperatively to address these pressing issues," said Dave Warner, the Air District's director of permits.

In May 2004, the Western United Dairymen and the Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Inc., sued the Valley Air District over the District's interpretation of the implementation timetable of SB700, landmark state legislation that removed permitting exemptions from agricultural operations, including the multi-billion dollar San Joaquin Valley dairy industry.

According to the settlement agreement, the group's top priority is to make recommendations to the Air District on an emission factor for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), one of the components of smog, for dairy operations by April 15, 2005. This factor quantifies the amount of pollution produced by a dairy and determines the levels at which permits are needed. Several scientific studies are currently being concluded and each of these studies will be critically examined by the DPAG.

DPAG will also make recommendations regarding Best Available Control Technologies that new dairies will be required to put into place to minimize air pollution.

DPAG will meet on a regular basis in the coming months to address these issues.

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 visit 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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