

News Release

10/19/2006

For Immediate Release

TO:

Local news, business and
features sections



North District Media Contact - Modesto
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central District Media Contact - Fresno
Maricela Velásquez
(559) 230-6000

South District Media Contact - Bakersfield
Brenda Turner
(661) 326-6900

Public comment sought on draft Environmental Justice Strategy ***Workshops set for October 23 and October 25***

(Fresno, CA) – The Valley Air District invites the public to comment on the District's draft Environmental Justice Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to build a framework that can be used by the District to protect the health of Valley residents that may be disproportionately affected by air pollution.

Environmental justice is the equal application of environmental protection to all communities and citizens without regard to race, color, national origin or income. California law and federal policy require agencies to address environmental-justice issues.

The draft Environmental Justice Strategy will identify and address any gaps in existing programs, policies and activities that may delay the achievement of environmental justice. The strategy outlines goals that will help further integrate environmental justice into District efforts.

"This strategy builds upon the work already begun by District staff, it formalizes current and future actions, and expands the District's commitment to protect the health of Environmental Justice Communities and all Valley residents," said Jaime Holt, Public Information Administrator for the Air District.

The public is invited to attend any of the two workshops:

- 7 p.m. Monday, October 23 at First Congregational Church (The Big Red Church), 2131 North Van Ness Boulevard in Fresno
- 9 a.m. Wednesday, October 25 at the Air District's central office in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. This workshop can also be attended by video-conference at either of the District's regional offices: 2700 M Street, Suite 275 in Bakersfield and 4800 Enterprise Way in Modesto

The draft strategy is available online at www.valleyair.org or by calling (559) 230-6000. Written comments regarding the strategy should be addressed to Maricela Velásquez at SJVUAPCD, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726 and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 9, 2006.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern.

###