

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

TO:

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assignment editors**

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Air District plans legal action against Modesto Tallow

(Modesto, CA) – Following attempts as far back as 1997 to bring Modesto Tallow into compliance with air-quality regulations, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District plans to file legal action against the facility this week.

The Air District has repeatedly cited the rendering facility for failure to comply with air-quality regulations and for odor complaints reported by residents in the area. In the first seven months of 2005, the Air District received 323 odor complaints for the facility, more than in any previous year. Over the past 10 years, the District has cited Modesto Tallow more than 125 times for violations of air-quality regulations.

“Modesto Tallow has had plenty of opportunity to rectify the situation, but the clock has run out,” said David Crow, the District’s Air Pollution Control Officer.

In July 2005, the District requested Modesto Tallow submit a formal maintenance and compliance agreement that needed to include:

- Shutting down the facility to undertake an extensive maintenance and training program;
- Proposing a settlement for the more than 90 outstanding Notices of Violation (NOVs) for odor and permit-condition violations; and
- Proposing and undertaking immediate plans to repair and/or upgrade facility components to achieve compliance with permit conditions.

The District reviewed Modesto Tallow’s plan last week, and have notified tallow plant’s operators that unless steps are taken immediately to resolve the outstanding issues, a formal complaint will be filed with the Stanislaus County Superior Court at the end of this week pursuant to the District’s Air Pollution Control Officer’s enforcement authority.

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.