

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Local air district inspector receives statewide award

(Fresno, CA) - For the second time in four years, a Valley Air District compliance inspector has been tapped as the recipient of the Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award.

Ted Strauss, a 21-year Air District veteran who is based in Fresno, was selected by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's Enforcement Managers Committee on September 7, 2006 to receive the award. The Swartzendruber award is named after a Valley Air District inspector who was killed in the line of duty in 1999 in Stanislaus County. The award is designed to recognize "unsung enforcement heroes" who make significant contributions that benefit air-pollution control efforts in an exemplary way.

Strauss, of Coarsegold, was selected due to his work on prescribed burning, wildland fires, agricultural burning, and fugitive dust controls. In 2003, the award was bestowed upon Gary Reeves, a Valley Air District inspector who is based in Modesto.

Up to three recipients are selected each year. This year, the award was given to Strauss and Mike Watt of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District.

"Ted's work has not only minimized emission impacts through better coordination in the San Joaquin Valley, but also has limited impact in other areas," said Jon Adams, the Air District's director of compliance. "In the past, there was little coordination between federal land managers and the Air District. Ted has forged new relationships with staff of these agencies, and the result has been the better management of smoke caused by burning on federal lands."

"I'm honored to receive this award, especially because it was established in the name of my colleague," Strauss said. "But I'd be remiss to accept the award without noting the efforts of the people I work with. Every District inspector performs difficult tasks each and every day, all in an effort to help make our air quality better."

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.