

**News Release**  
**Monday, Jan. 29, 2007**  
**For Immediate Release**



**San Joaquin Valley**  
**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

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TO: Local news, business  
and features sections

**New draft of smog plan seeks expeditious Valley clean-up**  
**Over 50% of Valley will reach Federal standards by 2015, 90% by 2020**

(Fresno, CA) – Today the Valley Air District will release the final draft of a sweeping pollution reduction plan which will set a course for tremendous air-quality improvements over the next ten years and beyond. The plan contains a comprehensive and exhaustive list of regulatory and incentive-based measures to reduce ozone and particulate matter precursor emissions throughout the Valley.

“This plan is designed to clean the Valley’s air as expeditiously as possible,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District’s Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer. “It will not happen overnight and it will not be cheap,” added Sadredin.

The draft “2007 Ozone Plan” reduces emissions that create ozone, the main ingredient of smog, which is mostly a summertime problem in the Valley. The draft plan will be released this afternoon, after months of extensive public workshops and comments. This is the first plan developed by the Air District under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s new standard that limits ozone concentrations averaged over eight-hour periods.

This plan will bring the entire Valley into attainment with the federal health-based 8-hour ozone standard as early as possible. By 2020 over 90% of Valley residents will be living in areas that reach the attainment status for ozone. Yet the area east of Arvin and northwest Fresno will take longer to reach attainment leaving the Valley with no choice but to step up to an “extreme” non-attainment designation.

“Some areas of the Valley will meet the standard earlier than others, which is simply a function of topography and meteorology,” Sadredin said. “The hotspot areas – primarily in northwest Fresno and the foothills east of Arvin – will improve consistently, but they’ll take longer to meet the standard.”

In order to meet the standard, the Valley needs to reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by about 75 percent, according to air-quality modeling conducted by the California Air Resources Board. The draft ozone plan identifies control measures to be adopted by 2011 that will achieve approximately 87% of the required emissions reductions at a considerable expense to Valley businesses.

The remaining needed reductions will come through increased incentive funding from state, federal and local sources and advanced technology development. The need for incentive funding is largely due to the fact that new mobile source emissions standards will only impact new vehicle purchases, with the existing vehicles remaining in operation utilizing older higher emitting engines. Mobile sources account for 80% of the NOx emissions in the San Joaquin Valley.

It is estimated that \$188 million per year in incentive funding will be necessary to achieve the remainder of the emissions reductions that cannot be identified through regulatory programs. For the Valley to be successful in securing the necessary incentive funding, an advocacy effort with the public sector, business community, environmental community, and the general public all requesting resources will be necessary.

The District, working with other number of stakeholders, has begun an advocacy effort at the state and federal through a multi-pronged approach. The District is requesting \$100 million per year in federal funding and \$60 million per year in state funding until attainment is reached.

“Based on conversations with Senators Feinstein and Boxer and the entire Valley Congressional delegation including Congressmen Costa, Cardoza, Radanovich and Nunes, I am optimistic that the Valley can count on their support for our clean air efforts”, stated Sadredin.

The plan contains a detailed expenditure plan for these funds (clean irrigation pumps, retirement of gross polluting vehicles, public and private fleet turnover, school bus replacement, agricultural equipment, alternative transportation, and more).

Reaching the goals of the plan will involve substantial investment from the public sector and the business community; and participation and support from every Valley resident.

Specific measures in the plan include:

- ❑ New state and federal standards for tailpipe emissions from cars, trucks, and locomotives
- ❑ Local rules requiring employee trip reduction, which would require employers of a certain size to establish carpool and alternative transportation programs for their employees
- ❑ Further local regulations on industrial, commercial and agricultural operation
- ❑ Public funding to help the private sector pay for replacing and retrofitting high-polluting engines.

### **Public health will improve**

The draft ozone plan, combined with air-quality improvements expected from next year’s plan to reduce fine particulates, will result in 460 fewer premature deaths in the Valley. Other health benefits include 260 fewer hospital admissions, 3,000 fewer lost work days, 23,300 fewer asthma attacks and 3,230 fewer cases of acute bronchitis in children.

“Our mission is to improve quality of life and health for all Valley residents.” Sadredin said. “This draft ozone plan does that.”

The draft of the plan to be released today includes input and feedback from several months of public review and discussion, including workshops held in October and town-hall meetings held during the summer. The plan also includes information gained from over \$80 million in research and air-quality studies. The draft plan will be available online at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) by the end of business on Monday.

A public workshop on the plan is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thurs., Feb. 8 and will be held via videoconference at the locations listed below. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide input at any of the three locations.

After incorporating and addressing public input from the workshop, the draft plan will be presented to the District’s Governing Board in April for approval. If adopted, the plan will then be forwarded to the California Air Resources Board and, subsequently, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY: NEWS CONFERENCE AT 2 P.M. TODAY, MONDAY, JAN. 29**

The updated draft plan will be the subject of a news conference scheduled for 2 p.m. today at Air District offices in Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto. The news conference will be held in-person at the Fresno office and will be video-conferenced to the regional offices in Bakersfield and Modesto. Reporters attending in the regional offices will be able to fully participate in the conference. The addresses are:

- 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. in Fresno; phone (559) 230-6000
- 2700 M Street, Suite 275 in Bakersfield; phone (661) 326-6900
- 4800 Enterprise Way in Modesto; phone (209) 557-6400