

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

**TO:**

**Local news, business and features sections**

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## **Air District issues draft plan to reduce smog** **Public workshop on federally required plan scheduled for Oct. 17**

(Fresno, CA) – The Valley Air District on Monday afternoon will release a draft plan to further reduce smog-forming emissions to help the Valley air basin meet a new, federal air-quality standard.

The draft “2007 Ozone Plan” is designed to reduce emissions that create ozone, the main ingredient of smog. The new, federal, health-based standard sets limits on ozone concentrations averaged over eight-hour periods. The old standard averaged concentrations over a one-hour period. The plan will undergo several months of public review and discussion prior to being presented to the District’s governing board in spring 2007 for their approval.

“This is the most far-reaching and comprehensive plan ever developed by the Air District,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “We look forward to a robust dialogue with all interested parties over the course of the next few months, as we finalize these clean-air strategies.”

The 350-plus-page plan, which will be posted online at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) by 5:30 p.m. Monday, provides an ambitious list of regulatory and voluntary measures to reduce smog-forming emissions. Some of the measures are under the jurisdiction of the Air District, while some are the responsibility of local, state and federal governments. The plan calls for:

- Regulations to further reduce smog-forming emissions from industrial, commercial, and agricultural operations;
- New state and federal standards for tailpipe emissions from mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, and locomotives;
- Local regulations and voluntary measures to reduce or offset emissions from mobile sources;
- Land-use decisions that reduce vehicle emissions associated with population growth; and
- Public funding to help the private sector pay for replacing and retrofitting on-road and off-road engines.

A public workshop on the plan is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Air District’s central office in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. The workshop also can 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.

“Due to the Valley’s geography and meteorology, our challenge in meeting the new standard is unmatched by any other region in the nation,” Sadredin said. “In developing this plan, we will leave no stone unturned. But we also fully appreciate that the Valley’s economic vitality and prosperity are essential to having the resources necessary to achieve our public-health goals.”

Under federal law, the District will have to select a deadline to meet the new smog standard: 2012, 2020, or 2023. According to the draft plan, meeting the 2012 deadline would require a total of \$7.5 billion dollars over the next five years, in addition to the regulatory measures already proposed in the plan. The 2020 and 2023 deadlines would require \$2.9 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively. Therefore, the plan calls for a significant increase in state and federal funding to help the Valley meet the ozone standard as quickly as possible.

Through development of this plan, the Air District seeks to learn:

- Are the regulatory measures identified in this plan adequate and feasible? Have any opportunities been overlooked? Are estimates of emission reductions accurate?
- How soon can the necessary regulations be adopted and how soon can the affected businesses comply with them?
- What level of state and federal funding can be expected and when?
- How soon can new and clean technologies be placed in service?
- Will the federal government accept proposed attainment dates that rely on funding for which specific sources and commitments haven’t been identified at the time of the plan?

Computer modeling shows that bringing the entire 25,000-square-mile Valley into compliance with the new smog standard would require a 60-percent reduction of emissions Valley-wide. However, all metropolitan areas of the Valley – representing about 90 percent of the Valley population – could meet the standard with only a 35-percent drop in emissions. The areas that would need more emission reductions are primarily in the Sierra Nevada mountains, as well as in the “downwind areas” and foothills of Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties.

The Air District in July held a series of six town-hall meetings throughout the Valley to solicit public input on strategies to meet air-quality standards. Information from those meetings was incorporated into the draft plan. Additionally, the public would be invited to provide input on each of the draft plan’s individual rules and strategies as they’re developed and implemented.

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](http://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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### **Media Advisory**

The Air District has scheduled a news conference for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 to discuss details of the draft ozone attainment demonstration plan. News organizations serving the Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto/Stockton media markets are encouraged to attend the news conference for information about the plan. The conference will be held in-person at the Air District’s central office in Fresno and will be video-conferenced to the regional offices in Bakersfield and Modesto. The addresses are: 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. in Fresno; 2700 M Street, Suite 275 in Bakersfield; and 4800 Enterprise Way in Modesto.