

News Release

03-07-06

For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

TO:
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agricultural editors**

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Farmers, dairies and producers help reduce air pollution

Agriculture industry's efforts remove 35 tons per day of particulates

Fresno – Farmers, producers, dairies and others in the agriculture industry helped remove more than 35 tons per day of particulate matter air pollution in 2005. The Air District credits the pollution reduction to the agricultural community's participation in the Conservation Management Practices (CMP) program.

"This award-winning program is a great example of public and private interests working together to clean the Valley's air," said Seyed Sadredin, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer for the Air District. "It's been a major success involving stakeholders, farmers and the District."

The Valley air basin is classified as non-attainment for particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Agricultural sources are a significant source of PM10 emissions. In 2004, the Air District established the Conservation Management Practices program (Rule 4550) to address these emissions.

The District credits programs such as these as with the successful reduction of PM10 in the Valley over that past few years. The District has enjoyed three years with no PM10 violations. In April of 2006, the District will send a formal request to the federal Environmental Protection Agency to be reclassified as in attainment for the PM10 standard. This reclassification will show that the air basin has met the PM10 reduction requirements well before the mandated date of 2010.

PM10 includes pollutants such as dust, soot, tiny drops of liquid and chemicals, and fly ash, which can bypass the body's natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs. Exposure to PM10 can trigger heart attacks, increase risk for lung cancer, aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, and reduce lung function.

Through the CMP program, the agricultural industry is achieving 35.3 tons per day of PM10 emissions reductions.

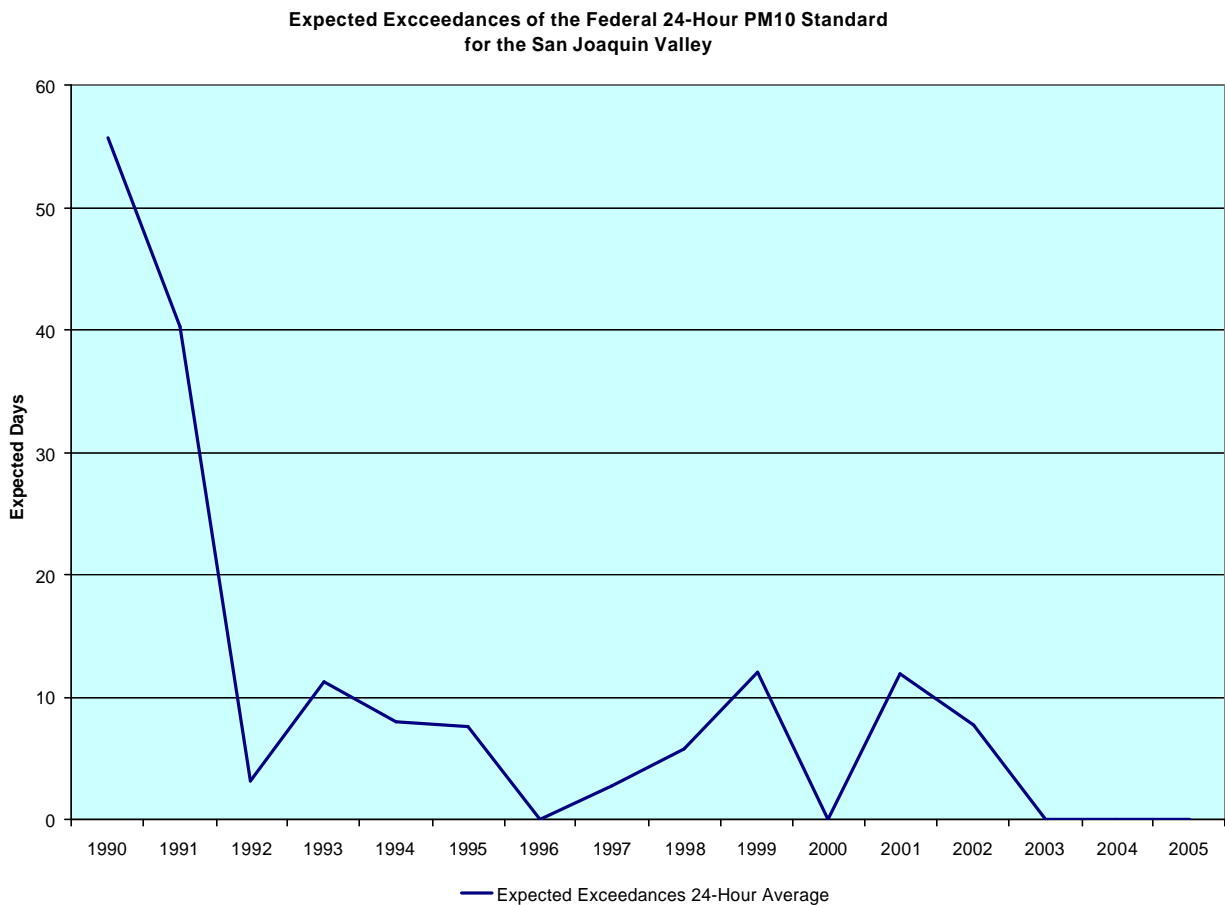
"Fresno County's farmers and ranchers made a great effort to comply with the District's new regulations and it's showing results," said Karla Kay Edwards, Executive Director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. "Our producers have always done their share, and it's good to be acknowledged for doing their part to help improve air quality in the Valley."

More than 6,000 of the Valley's larger farms have reduced dust emissions since July 2004 through participation in the CMP program. The CMP program primarily applies to growers with contiguous acreage of greater than 100 acres and dairies with greater than 500 mature head. Growers,

producers and dairies select from a list of practices that help reduce the amount of “fugitive” PM10 emissions generated from vehicles moving over field and roads, soil disturbance, harvesting, wind erosion, open piles, and other agricultural activities.

Forty workshops that attracted about 4,000 participants helped educate affected agricultural operations. As a result of the cooperation between the District and agricultural community, the CMP program now covers 3.2 million acres of farmland and more than 30,000 miles of unpaved roads.

The collaborative effort responsible for the CMP program received US EPA Region IX’s “2005 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement,” while the American Lung Association of Central California recognized this program with its “2005 Clean Air Award.”



The Valley Air District serves San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern counties. For more information, log onto www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: in Modesto at (209) 557-6400; in Fresno at (559) 230-6000; and in Bakersfield at (661) 326-6900.

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