

News Release



Attn: City editor; Business editor

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For immediate release

Northern office
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central office
Josette Merced Bello
(559) 230-5850

Southern office
Kelly Hogan Malay
(661) 326-6900

Air District sets workshops for fugitive dust, cost plans

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is developing a new rule to reduce fugitive dust emissions from agricultural field operations, livestock operations, and agricultural unpaved roads and traffic areas.

Rule 4550 (Conservation Management Practices) is being developed according to the Conservation Management Practices Program, a control strategy from the 2003 PM10 Plan approved earlier this year by the District's Governing Board. The goal of the PM10 plan is to reduce the emission of particles 10 microns and smaller, about one-seventh the width of a human hair. These particles lodge in the lungs and can cause serious health problems.

The rule applies to agricultural crop operations of 100 or more contiguous acres and to animal feeding operations above certain population thresholds.

Rule 3190 (Conservation Management Practices Plan Fee) will recover the cost related to the review, approval, and enforcement of the conservation management plans in accordance with Rule 4550.

Public workshops to discuss Rule 4550 and Rule 3190 are scheduled in each of the District's three regions:

- 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the District's Fresno office (1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.);
- 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the Modesto office (4230 Kiernan Ave.); and
- 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Bakersfield office (2700 M St., ste. 275).

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The workshops will be video-conferenced among all three offices so that residents may attend and provide comments during any of the three meetings in any office.

Farmers and operators who are subject to Rule 4550 would be required to select one Conservation Management Practice (CMP) for each of several source categories and submit a CMP plan to the District for approval.

The District has worked closely with area growers to identify commodity-specific practices that are feasible for the Valley region. Examples include:

- Practices that reduce or eliminate the need to disturb the soil or manure;
- Practices that protect the soil from wind erosion;
- Practices that reduce emissions from unpaved roads and parking areas;
- Alternative practices to waste burning.

The District will hold a second round of workshops early in 2004 with rule adoption expected in April 2004. The District will begin rule implementation in July 2004.

For more information on Conservation Management Practices or the upcoming workshops, call the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in Fresno at (559) 230-6000; in Modesto at (209) 557-6400; and in Bakersfield at (661) 326-6900.