

## **Bill would require collectors to smog classic cars Hard-to-find original parts would be needed for vehicles to pass**

By Alex Breitler - Record Staff Writer  
Stockton Record, Friday, April 4, 2008

STOCKTON - The mangled '66 Ford Mustang was destined for the crusher when Ron Bramlett bagged it for \$50 back in 1985.

Today, the restored car sparkles blue on display at his shop, Mustangs Plus on Wilson Way.

"We brought this one back from the dead," Bramlett said.

### **On the Web**

To read the text of SB1549, use the search engine at [www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov).

Car collectors are a committed and passionate crowd. And they're passionately angry over a new bill that would require cars built prior to 1976 to get smog checks every two years like many other cars.

The law would apply only to the San Joaquin Valley, where officials are struggling to meet federal air pollution standards.

The problem isn't paying for a smog check, Bramlett said. Collectors, after all, commonly pump tens of thousands of dollars into their vehicles.

The problem is that hobbyists have in most cases rebuilt their classics with newer engine parts that the state may not consider acceptable. This could lead to failing a smog check. And it could discourage collectors from restoring old cars in the future, they say.

"All for what?" Bramlett said. "Cars like this one are driven so very little. ... Even if this program had 100 percent compliance, the effect (on the air) would be very, very small."

Smog checks involve more than sticking a tube into the tailpipe. Technicians also peer under the hood to make sure the engine has emissions control equipment that is certified for the car's year, make and model.

These original parts are hard to find for older cars, said Stockton's Steve Spatola, who organizes a weekly car show for the American Legion Karl Ross Post 16.

"So if you fail," Spatola said, "your car is off the road."

SB1549, authored by state Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, would take effect in 2009. It would only apply to vehicles registered by new owners in the Valley.

Environmental groups have pushed for smog check reform as one solution to the pollution puzzle, including mandating smog checks for some vehicles every year rather than every other year.

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, a spokeswoman for the American Lung Association of California, said she wants to study Florez's proposal more closely.

"I really want to find out what the emissions benefits are," she said. "Obviously, the Valley is in a really tight spot to reduce pollution."

Smog checks are critically important to achieving that, she said.

A spokeswoman for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District said officials there did not have exact figures on emissions from pre-1976 cars.

"There are not very many of these cars, and they're not driven very much," spokeswoman Jaime Holt said.

## **Frito-Lay solar system puts the sun in SunChips, takes advantage of renewable energy Manufacturer to use Central Valley's biggest asset**

By Christina Salerno  
Modesto Bee, Friday, April 4, 2008

The Frito-Lay plant in Modesto will start using a new ingredient of sorts to make its SunChips brand snack -- the sun.

The company is installing a football field-sized farm of solar collectors next to its plant in the Beard Industrial District, with plans to flip the switch on Earth Day.

The solar field is made up of large curved mirrors that move with the position of the sun, focusing the heat into tubes of glass filled with water. That water is directed into the plant's boiler system, where it will be converted into steam to heat the oil used to cook SunChips.

"This is the first time we're using the technology in this scenario," said Aurora Gonzalez, spokeswoman for Frito-Lay, a division of PepsiCo. "You normally use natural gas to heat the cookers. This is an alternative. It will generate enough steam to produce the plant's SunChips within a year."

Half of the solar collectors are installed and being tested, with a launch date of April 22. Once the second half of the project is completed in July, about 54,000 square feet of mirrors on five acres will absorb the sun's rays.

Modesto's sun-drenched climate made it a natural choice for a solar farm, Gonzalez said. The Modesto region recorded 306 days in the past year that weren't cloudy or partly cloudy, according to statistics from the National Weather Service.

Seven Frito-Lay plants in the United States make SunChips, but Modesto is the first to use solar power to make the multigrain snack. Plans are in the works to use the technology at a factory in Casa Grande, Ariz., Gonzalez said.

Economic development specialists in Stanislaus County hope other companies will follow Frito-Lay's lead and look to the Central Valley as a place to harness the sun's energy.

"The timing and focus on renewable energy is very prevalent," said Doug Sweetland, director of economic development for the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance.

Energy and power costs are among the chief concerns of manufacturing firms when considering locations, Sweetland said. Frito-Lay can be touted as an example of a company using alternative energy in Stanislaus County as a supplement to the power grid, he said.

"We continue to get interest from companies that are looking at potential areas in the county for the installation of solar panel farms," Sweetland said. "We're in an ideal location to do that."

The solar collectors are a "perfect win-win" for the Modesto Irrigation District, which serves the Frito-Lay plant, as well as other industrial users in Stanislaus County, said Richard Harriman, a Modesto environmental attorney who advocates for MID ratepayers.

Cutting power production costs

"We can really make a big cut into the power production requirements and cost long-term of having to buy hydrocarbon fuels," Harriman said. Cutting the cost of production in Modesto will give the city a competitive advantage in attracting new industries, he said.

At full capacity, the solar panels in Modesto will produce 14,700 MMBTU (one million British Thermal Units) a year. It takes roughly the same amount of energy to run the SunChips manufacturing line, which operates at about 2.4 MMBTU an hour, or 14,600 MMBTU a year.

Gonzalez wouldn't give the cost of installation, describing it only as "significant," but said that Frito-Lay believes the benefits are worth the cost.

Harriman said that while it still costs more per kilowatt for solar power than natural gas, an investment in solar energy pays off in the long run.

"We should be investing in solar even though it is more expensive now," he said. "Over time, the cost of oil and gas and fossil fuels are going to continue to go up."

Frito-Lay is embarking on an advertising blitz to promote its efforts, including a series of print advertisements, billboards, a Web site and TV commercials that begin airing today.

The newspaper advertisements and billboards are described as "solar-powered." Readers will be directed to hold up the print advertisement to the sun to unveil a message, and outdoor billboards will cast shadows over lettering as the sun moves across the sky.

The company worked with the California Energy Commission on the Modesto project, and the designs for the solar panels were approved by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a research arm of the U.S. Department of Energy.

On the Net: [www.sunchips.com](http://www.sunchips.com).

## **'Do something about climate change,' urges health chief**

Daily News Wire Services

LA Daily News, Friday, April 04, 2008

Calling global warming a "major public health problem," county Public Health Director Dr. Jonathan Fielding called on Southland residents today to do something about climate change as part of National Public Health Week.

"A lot of people have this kind of general, vague notion of what climate change is," Fielding said. "Let me tell you, climate change is affecting every one of us ... it's an urgent problem."

Fielding blamed climate change for increasing air pollution, deadly heat waves and wildfires. Air pollution alone causes an estimated 6,500 "excess deaths" in Los Angeles County annually, he said.

To address the issue, Fielding asked residents to take a "healthy climate pledge" to reduce their impact on climate change during National Public Health Week, April 7-13.

The pledge, outlined on the National Public Health Week's Web site at [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org), includes traveling and eating differently, as well as "greening" homes and workplaces.

Another part of the public health department's campaign is to encourage residents to prepare for natural disasters, which can be caused or exacerbated by climate change, according to Fielding.

This Saturday in Atlantic Park in East Los Angeles, families will be taught how to create a family communication plan and to put together emergency preparedness kits.

The 10 essentials for a kit, according to the county, are water, food, cash and important documents, clothes, a flashlight, a first-aid kit, medicine, a radio, toiletries and tools.

## **UN climate talks consider compromise**

By Michael Casey, AP Environmental Writer

In the Modesto Bee, Friday, April 4, 2008

BANGKOK, Thailand — Climate negotiators considered a compromise work schedule Friday for talks leading to a sweeping global warming pact, apparently overcoming a heated dispute about a Japanese proposal on how to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

The proposed agenda, shown Friday evening to The Associated Press, laid out the issues negotiators will work on during the rest of the year toward the pact, which is to be concluded by the end of 2009.

Talks had bogged down earlier in the day because of developing nations' opposition to early discussion of a Japanese proposal to set industry-specific emissions reduction targets. Developing nations want rich countries to agree to set national targets first.

Representatives from 163 countries held five days of talks in Bangkok, the first negotiations on a global warming pact to take effect in 2012. Scientists say the world needs to stabilize emissions in the next 10 to 15 years and cut them by half by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The draft proposal considered Friday evening postponed in-depth discussions of the Japanese proposal until August, and instead put other issues - such as rich countries' efforts to help poor nations adapt to rising temperatures - on the agenda for a meeting in June.

Some environmentalists cheered the proposal.

"Everyone gets their needs met," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "It covers the issues that need to be covered by the end of the year."

The draft schedule also called for discussions of the transfer of clean technologies from rich countries to developing nations at the June meeting in Bonn. A subsequent meeting in Ghana in August would address the Japanese proposal, U.S. efforts to cut emissions and deforestation.

The U.N.-led conference was to consider the draft in a plenary session later in the evening.

The Japanese plan triggered opposition earlier in the day from China, India and other developing countries. They argued it was an attempt to shift the burden of responsibility for climate change from rich to poor nations.

Tokyo hopes for an agreement on energy efficiency targets for specific industries across national boundaries. Proponents say it would preserve competition, while rewarding nations like Japan that already have high levels of energy efficiency.

Poorer countries, however, fear it would favor nations with a technological edge by allowing them to make fewer cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. They objected to holding in-depth discussions on it in June, as called for in an earlier draft work plan.

"We would have very strong reservations," said Su Wei, a Chinese delegate who is responsible for the government's climate change policy. "It is intended to substitute for targets and would shift the burden on developing countries, which are not very advanced in energy efficiency technology."

An Indian delegate dismissed the Japanese proposal as a "huge protectionist scam," while the G-77 grouping of developing countries refused to include any reference to it in the work plan.

Japan, which is struggling to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, is campaigning to put its approach at the center of the future warming agreement, which is to take effect when the Kyoto pact ends in 2012.

Kyoji Komachi, Japan's top negotiator in Bangkok, said Japan was not using the proposal to force developing countries into the same emissions targets as wealthy industrialized nations.

"We want an in-depth discussion - that's all we're looking for," Komachi said. While he denied Japan was insisting on specific timing, he added: "We would like to see the discussion early on."

The other sticking point in the talks has been the U.S. insistence that discussions over actions it will take to reduce greenhouse gases coincide with discussions about what developing nations will do. Developing nations argue that U.S. and other industrialized countries should take the first steps in cutting emissions, since they are responsible for the bulk of today's emissions.

The new global warming pact is meant to succeed the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which requires 37 industrialized nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions an average of 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

The United States is the only industrialized nation not to have ratified Kyoto, but it agreed with nearly 200 other nations at a conference in Bali in December to negotiate a new agreement by the end of 2009.

[Letter to the Contra Costa Times, Friday, April 04, 2008:](#)

## Railroad freight hauling needs support

Dear Editor:

The Antioch chamber sees our area changing from bedroom community to a regional job center with freight movement by rail an integral part of our economic success. We are looking to extend port services and we have companies relocating that require rail service. The public benefits too - if we move more freight by rail, we could reduce both highway congestion and fuel consumption while at the same time improve air quality.

With freight rail demand expected to almost double by 2035, the Antioch chamber has endorsed Go21, a national public interest organization advocating the public benefits from increased freight rail hauling capacity.

Earlier this month, I joined 30 other Go21 supporters in Washington, D.C. We asked for opposition to S. 953/H.R. 2125 as re-regulation will shrink capacity. We asked for support for capacity expansion with S. 1125/ H.R. 2116 -- a bi-partisan 25-percent tax credit for any business investing in new rail track, intermodal facilities, rail yards, locomotives or other infrastructure. Please carry this message to Congress too.

*Devi Lanphere  
President/CEO, Antioch Chamber of Commerce*

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses the possibility of combating global warming without affecting its growth. For more information on this or other Spanish clips, contact Claudia Encinas at \(559\) 230-5851.](#)

### **FMI: es posible combatir el calentamiento global sin afectar el crecimiento**

Hoy Internet, Thursday, April 3, 2008

WASHINGTON, 3 Abr 2008 (AFP) - El Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) consideró este jueves que es posible luchar contra el calentamiento global sin perjudicar el crecimiento.

El cambio climático es un factor "que tiene consecuencias potencialmente catastróficas" y "uno de los más grandes problemas mundiales que necesitan una acción colectiva", reconoce el FMI en uno de los capítulos de análisis de sus Perspectivas económicas mundiales.

Para ello, el FMI sugiere tarifar las emisiones de carbono previendo entonces un aumento progresivo del precio del CO2.

"Incluso teniendo en cuenta una pérdida, el PNB mundial sería incluso 2,3 veces más elevado en 2040 que en 2007", estima la entidad financiera.

"A largo plazo, tarifar las emisiones de carbono debería estimular el crecimiento económico al incitar a los particulares y a las empresas a innovar y recurrir a técnicas y productos más eficaces y menos contaminantes", agregó.

En este camino, es necesario contar con la participación de todos los países, ya que las economías emergentes estarán en el origen del 70% de las emisiones durante los próximos 50 años.

"Toda acción que no incluya grandes economías en pleno desarrollo como Brasil, China, India y Rusia (...) sería extremadamente costosa y políticamente indefendible", estima el FMI.

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses new alternatives to energy.](#)

### **Nuevas alternativas energéticas**

**ELECTRICIDAD: Debido al daño que causa la quema del carbón, exploran maneras más limpias y eficientes de producir electricidad y así reducir el impacto en el ambiente.**

By Gabriel Martinez

La Prensa, Thursday, April 3, 2008

En busca de fuentes alternativas de electricidad, el gobernador de California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, junto a varios oficiales estatales, anunció recientemente en Fontana la creación del proyecto de instalación de paneles solares más grande del país.

El objetivo es crear 250 megavatios utilizando unos paneles solares sobre una superficie de 65 millones pies cuadrados en los techos desocupados de edificios comerciales del sur de California. Se estima que la energía generada abastecerá a 162,000 hogares del sur de California.

La instalación de paneles solares comenzará en Fontana en los techos de los edificios de la compañía ProLogis y se espera que estén funcionando en agosto.

"La gran parte de la electricidad tradicional es producida utilizando carbón. Se extrae el carbón de la tierra, luego se quema en las plantas eléctricas para así producir la electricidad", explicó Oliver Bernstein, portavoz de Sierra Club, organización que lucha para proteger el medio ambiente. "Esto crea mucho smog, un humo muy tóxico que contamina el aire y el medio ambiente".

Como resultado, "la quema del carbón produce el calentamiento global", añadió Bernstein. Por esta razón, se buscan alternativas de electricidad para disminuir el impacto negativo en el medio ambiente.

Para el ingeniero Rudy Perez, el Inland Empire ofrece el lugar ideal para instalar paneles solares debido a su clima soleado. Los paneles solares funcionan en todas las temporadas, siempre y cuando el cielo esté despejado. Esto no sucedería en zonas costeras debido a que las nubes interceptan los rayos del sol, explicó Perez.

Para una casa de hasta seis o siete habitaciones, basta instalar los paneles solares en el techo de la vivienda para poder surtirla de toda la electricidad necesaria, comentó por su parte Javier Sierra, también miembro de Sierra Club.

Otra fuente alternativa de electricidad son los molinos de viento, los cuales pueden llegar a medir hasta 300 pies de altura, unos 90 metros.

"Cuando las hélices (aletas) empiezan a rotar, comienza a funcionar un generador eléctrico dentro del molino", explicó Sierra.

El molino puede trabajar día y noche y cuanto más viento haya, más electricidad es generada. Un molino puede crear suficiente energía para abastecer a 500 hogares.

La única limitación de los molinos de viento es que debe hacer viento para que puedan funcionar.

Durante el verano, la producción es menor debido a la falta de viento, pero es en esa época cuando los paneles solares podrían ser más efectivos.

"Este proyecto paneles solares es uno ejemplo de las grandes ideas que necesitamos para cumplir los objetivos estatales a largo plazo en las áreas de energía y cambio climático", dijo el gobernador Schwarzenegger, quien estuvo en rueda de prensa en Fontana para anunciar el proyecto.

Una vez instalados los paneles solares, "la energía solar estará disponible para ayudar a enfrentar el desafío de abastecer la alta demanda eléctrica durante los días más calurosos", de acuerdo a John Bryson, presidente y director ejecutivo de Edison Internacional, compañía productora de electricidad. El valor de este proyecto es de 875 millones de dólares en el sur de California.

En el 2006, el gobernador de California aprobó la creación del programa Million Solar Rooftops, el cual ofrece 2.9 mil millones de dólares en incentivos para animar a los habitantes del estado a instalar paneles solares en los techos de sus hogares antes del 2018.

Si este plan produce los resultados esperados, reduciría en tres millones de toneladas los gases invernaderos creados por la quema de carbón, según se anunció en la conferencia de prensa en Fontana.

Para Bernstein, las fincas solares que planea crear el gobierno de California son una buena idea, pero una respuesta efectiva para minimizar el daño al medio ambiente es la eficacia del uso de electricidad en los hogares.

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses meetings concentrated on making a pact to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.](#)

## **Charlas climatológicas se centran en concesiones para un pacto**

By Michael Casey

La Prensa, Friday, April 04, 2008

Negociadores climatológicos consideraron el viernes un calendario modificado para lograr un acuerdo radical sobre el calentamiento global, superando al parecer una acalorada disputa sobre una propuesta japonesa de cómo reducir las emisiones de dióxido de carbono.

La agenda propuesta, mostrada el viernes por la noche a The Associated Press, detalla los temas en los que los negociadores van a trabajar durante el resto del año hacia el pacto, que deberá ser concluido al final del 2009.

Las conversaciones se habían trabado a inicios del día a causa de la oposición de los países en desarrollo a la discusión temprana de una propuesta japonesa para fijar objetivos de reducción de emisiones específicos para cada industria. Las naciones en desarrollo quieren que las potencias industrializadas accedan primero a fijar objetivos nacionales.

Representantes de 163 países celebraron conversaciones durante cinco días en Bangkok, las primeras sobre un acuerdo global que deberá entrar en vigor en el 2012.

Los científicos dicen que el mundo debe estabilizar sus emisiones en los próximos de 10 a 15 años y reducirlas en la mitad para el 2050 para evitar los peores impactos al clima.

La propuesta considerada el viernes aplazó las discusiones plenas de la propuesta japonesa hasta agosto, y en su lugar colocó otros temas como los esfuerzos de países ricos para ayudar a países pobres a adaptarse a temperaturas más calientes en la agenda para una reunión en junio.

Algunos ambientalistas saludaron la propuesta.

"Todo el mundo ve satisfechas sus necesidades", dijo Alden Meyer, de la Unión de Científicos Preocupados. "Cubre los asuntos que tienen que ser cubiertos para el final del año".

La propuesta de calendario llama además a discusiones sobre la transferencia de tecnologías limpias de países ricos a naciones en desarrollo en la reunión de junio en Bonn. Una reunión subsiguiente en Ghana lidiaría con la propuesta japonesa, los esfuerzos estadounidenses para reducir emisiones y la deforestación.