

Warmer weather means higher rates of ozone pollution in Central Valley

By Monica Valez

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The warmer the weather becomes, the more aware Valley residents should be of ozone pollution, the dominant pollutant in the summertime that can damage lung tissue, said officials from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Ground-level ozone is a gas that's formed when a variety of pollution, from things like cars and factories, are baked in the sun, said Anthony Presto, outreach and communications representative for the district, in an email to the Sun-Star.

"The more sun, and the warmer and more stagnant it gets in the Valley, the more ozone accumulates at ground level, where it is breathed in by residents and animals," Presto said. "Because days are longer in the summer, the Valley has a tendency build up high levels of ground-level ozone."

May to September is when the Valley predominantly sees elevated ozone levels, because of the hot, sunny weather and stagnant wind, according to the district's website.

High levels of ozone can aggravate asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, Presto said, and can harm vegetation.

In Merced County, respiratory disease is the fourth leading cause of death, according to the 2016 Community Health Assessment from the Merced County Department of Public Health. The Merced and Modesto area is the eighth most polluted part of the country, the report said.

Although there has been improvements in summertime air quality, Presto said, "we still have a long way to go."

"The Valley does not meet federal health standards for ozone pollution," he added.

Valley residents can check Real-Time Air Monitoring through the district's website to see daily levels of ozone pollution. On the same website, people can also learn about the programs the district has to help residents afford appliances that are cleaner for the air, like lawn mowers and electric cars.

For more information on healthy air, go to <http://www.healthyairliving.com/>.

County seeks volunteers for boards, commissions

Stockton Record, Sunday, May 14, 2017

STOCKTON — The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is seeking volunteers to serve on the following boards and commissions:

- Advisory Water Commission: One general business community representative.
- Agricultural Advisory Board: One member from the First Supervisorial District.
- Agricultural Technical Advisory Board: One board appointee.
- Assessment Appeals Board No. 2: One first alternate member.
- Aviation Advisory Committee: One member.
- Behavioral Health Board: Two consumer representatives.
- Civil Service Commission: One member from the Fifth Supervisorial District.
- Commission on Aging: One member from the Third Supervisorial District; one at-large representative.
- Council for Quality Education and Care of Children: One child-care provider representative; one public agency representative; one community representative.
- Escalon Public Cemetery District: One director.
- Garden Acres Community Center Advisory Board: One low-income representative.

- Larch Clover Community Center Advisory Board: One community service organization representative.
- Linden Municipal Advisory Committee: One member.
- Lockeford Municipal Advisory Council: One member.
- Lodi Community Center Advisory Board: Two community service organization representatives.
- Northeast Community Center Advisory Board: Two community service organization representatives.
- [San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Citizen's Advisory Committee: One environmental interest group representative.](#)
- Thornton Community Center Advisory Board: One community service organization representative; one low-income representative.

Some positions require certain professional experience, which will be listed on the county's website. The deadline to submit applications is 5 p.m. June 2. The board will consider qualified applicants on July 11. Applications can be found online at sjgov.org/departments/cob/boards_commissions_committees; or by emailing rdebord@sigov.org. You can also call (209) 468-2350 or by fax at (209) 468-3694. Applications are also available at 44 N. San Joaquin St., Suite 627 in Stockton.