



# Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Summer 2001



## EPA Reproposes One-Hour Ozone Severe Area Bump-Up

Although an earlier draft was first released in June 2000, the US Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] published a revised rulemaking notice in May proposing the reclassification of the San Joaquin Valley from serious to severe nonattainment of the federal one-hour ozone standard. In addition to the impacts to the San Joaquin Air Basin, the revised notice established a separate nonattainment area for Eastern Kern County.

The notice included two other significant modifications. While the EPA requires attainment of the one-hour ozone standard by November 15, 2005, the agency also solicits comment on granting the San Joaquin Valley a 2007 deadline. This date is based on the severity of ozone exceedances and applies to a number of other regions in the country.

Additionally, in the current proposal the EPA will require the District to submit a state implementation plan [SIP] by May 31, 2002, instead of within 18 months of the effective reclassification date.

The District and the California Air Resources Board have been working on the SIP, which is commonly referred to as the Severe Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan [SOADP], for some time. A workshop on the emissions inventory and preliminary photochemical modeling for the SOADP was held on June 19, 2001. Staff and those in attendance discussed information on air quality trends, emissions inventory, preliminary photochemical modeling, the control measure development process, and attainment demonstration modeling.

A workshop on control measures for the SOADP is tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2001 and a workshop for the draft SOADP on December 17, 2001.

Details on these upcoming meetings will be mailed and posted on the District's web site as they develop. A summary of the June meeting is currently available by logging on to [www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public\\_workshops\\_idx.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public_workshops_idx.htm).

## Updates to Regulation 8

Valley Air District staff concluded the second round of public workshops to receive comments on the proposed Best Available Control Measures [BACM] upgrade of Regulation VIII rules. Nearly 60 persons participated in the workshops held in Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto in person, as well as via a video-teleconferencing system. Regulation VIII applies to "fugitive dust" particulate matter [PM10] sources such as construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, handling and storage of bulk materials, landfills, unpaved roads, and vehicle/equipment parking, shipping, receiving, transfer, and service areas.

The proposed amendments to Regulation VIII are necessary to address the deficiencies identified by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and to upgrade current Reasonably Available Control Measures [RACM] level rules to meet the more stringent BACM level required in serious PM10 non-attainment areas. Additional workshops are anticipated this fall quarter with a proposed regulation slated for public hearing to the Governing Board in the fourth quarter. Regulation VIII is one District strategy that complements other PM10 reduction efforts such as smoke management and the heavy-duty motor vehicle incentive program to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### Complete Governing Board Agendas and Minutes

These are only highlights of the Governing Board Meetings. For complete agendas and minutes, please visit the Valley Air District's web site @ [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

### March

Approved changes to the Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicle Incentive Program to add electric bicycles for law enforcement agencies.

### April

Approved recommendation of the Phase VII— REMOVE Program Evaluation Committee for Motor Vehicle Emissions reduction to fund 14 projects for nearly \$2.5 million.

### May

Held a Special Public Hearing to review the District's 2001-2002 Recommended Budget and provided the public with the opportunity to comment.

### Meeting Schedule

Governing Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the:

**Central Region Office**  
in Fresno, [559] 230-6000.

### VTC System

Governing Board meetings are also held via a video teleconferencing [VTC] system:

**Northern Region Office**  
in Modesto, [209] 557-6400;  
or the:

**Southern Region Office**  
in Bakersfield, [661] 326-6900.

## Clean Green Yard Machines to reduce 1.66 tons of air pollution

This spring, the Valley Air District launched a new program that provided Valley residents the opportunity to retire their gasoline-powered lawnmowers in exchange for discounts toward the purchase of Black & Decker battery-powered, cordless mowers.

Through the Clean Green Yard Machines program, the District distributed 1,200 mowers at events in Modesto [April 21], Bakersfield [April 28] and Fresno [May 12]. The District expects this year's program to reduce 1.66 tons of emissions this summer and 11.62 tons throughout the mowers' operating lives.

Financial support for Clean Green Yard Machines was provided by the Valley Air District; the California Air Resources Board; the cities of Bakersfield, Fresno and Modesto; and, the counties of Fresno, Kern and Stanislaus.



## Biomass-to-Energy Program

The Valley Air District recently presented incentive payments totaling \$3.36 million to four biomass-fueled plants that convert agricultural vegetative residues into electricity. Under a program funded by the California Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency, the District provided direct financial incentives of \$10 per ton in the form of grants to Delano Energy, Mendota Biomass, Tracy Biomass, and Rio Bravo-Fresno biomass fueled powerplants. Cumulatively, the powerplants anticipate converting approximately 534,000 tons of agricultural vegetative residues into fuels for electric power generation, thereby avoiding approximately 2,488 tons annually of particulate matter [PM10] emissions. This program, which will run through July 2003, will also help avoid 1,792 tons annually of oxides of nitrogen [NOx] emissions.

**Show You Care - Spare The Air**

We breathe 21,000 quarts of air a day. Shouldn't it be clean?

Every living thing breathes

Read the questions below and see if you can find the answers.

1. What sea creature breathes with their toes?
2. Where do water beetles store air to breathe?
3. What two passages do humans and pets use to breathe air?
4. What animal breathes oxygen from the water?

**Pollution Solutions**

- Trip Link – combine errands into one trip
- Use an electric or chimney briquette starter, or gas grill
- Car pool
- Purchase pump sprays, gels and solids instead of aerosols
- Use an electric or manual lawn mower

**TACO BELL**

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

For more information on how you can Spare the Air and for daily air quality forecasts call the Valley Air District at (800) 766-4463. Visit our web site at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

PCN#51414

## Spare the Air Promotion with 108 Taco Bell Locations Throughout the San Joaquin Valley

Keep your eyes open and get your taste buds ready for a fun-filled educational Spare the Air promotion brought to you by the Valley Air District and Taco Bell. The promotion uses a colorful trayliner game which highlights Spare the Air pollution solutions and air quality facts.

Intriguing questions include “What sea creature breathes with their toes?” and “Where do water beetles store air to breathe?”

[Answers are: Starfish breathe with their toes. Water beetles store air to breathe under their bellies.]

The trayliner also promotes pollution solutions such as trip linking and carpooling, as well as the Valley Air District’s toll-free number, [800] 766-4463; and website, [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

“This is a new and innovative promotion for the Valley Air District,” said Janis Parker, a public education specialist with the District. “Taco Bell’s demographics are a good segment of the population. And they have been cooperative in assisting us with Spare the Air.”

Beginning in July, a total of one-half million trayliners will be distributed to 108 Taco Bell restaurants throughout the San Joaquin Valley.



## Heavy-Duty Engine Program

More than 700 applications have been received for the Heavy-Duty Engine Program. Planning staff estimates indicate \$27 million in requests for more than 2,000 engines. These include off-road and on-road projects. For further details, please call [559] 230-5858.



## Spare the Air Receives Recognition

The Valley Air District's Spare the Air program was recently recognized by the Central California Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America with an Image Award of Excellence. The category of the award was in Government and Public Affairs. The Image Awards honor works of distinction by professionals in the fields of public relations, communications, marketing and advertising.



## Clean Air Commuter Lunch Held in Bakersfield

More than 100 people turned out to honor local "clean air" heroes and learn about alternative fuel cars at the Clean Air Commuter Lunch held recently in Bakersfield. The luncheon, held in celebration of Clean Air Month, was sponsored in part by the Valley Air District.

"We were happy to see that so many people are interested in clean air commute options," said Linda Urata, executive director of Project Clean Air, a member of the Blue Sky Partners, co-sponsor.

Attendees viewed clean air vehicles including the Valley Air District's Toyota Prius, won Spare the Air prizes as well as enjoyed music by Mama's Midlife Crisis and a puppet show by The Clean Kids.



*Jon Adams, compliance supervisor for the southern region office, and Ralph Pape, with RAP Services, examine the Valley Air District's new mobile air monitoring station*

## New Hi-Tech Mobile Air Monitoring Van for Valley Air District

Bakersfield Refining Company recently donated a hi-tech mobile air monitoring van to the Valley Air District. The van, part of a settlement agreement, is equipped with pumps, analyzers and generators to test air samples for pollutants and odor-causing emissions.

"The van is a big step in helping the District improve air quality," says Bob Kard, director of compliance for the Valley Air District. "It will enable the District to accurately spot-check emissions from equipment, as well as to identify compounds that are responsible for odors."

Bakersfield Refining Company produces approximately 70,000 barrels of oil products per day.





**Me gusta mucho jugar fútbol.**

**Jugar fútbol en días cuando el aire es pobre es como fumar.**

**Ayude a mantener el aire limpio así podemos gozar de él.**

- Comparta viaje al trabajo y ocasiones sociales.
- Camine cuando pueda, use la bicicleta, utilice el transporte público.
- Use un cortador de césped eléctrico o manual.
- Posponga el uso del motor de su lancha o vehículo de todo terreno por 24 horas.

Para información sobre cómo puede ayudar, llame gratis al

**1-800-766-4463**



**Cuidar el Aire  
por el bien de todos**

## **Valley Air District Kicks Off Spare the Air Season**

To prove that clean air can pay off in many ways, 67 Spare the Air Employer Partners throughout the Valley held special promotions to help kick off the 2001 Spare the Air season. This year, 22 more companies participated than in 2000. Now in its sixth year, Drill Day was held on Wednesday, June 6 and allowed the Valley Air District, all Spare the Air Employer Partners, and the media to prepare for immediate action on smoggy days this summer.

The District placed advertisements in nine newspapers throughout the San Joaquin Valley as a prelude to the Spare the Air Drill Day kick-off. With circulation of nearly 500,000, the ads featured organizations participating in the Big Clean Air Pay-off on Drill Day and offered a variety of air pollution reduction tips and incentives.

A Spanish campaign is also part of the Spare the Air newspaper advertising component. The caption, "Cuidar el Aire por el bien de todos" translates to "Spare the Air for everyone's sake."

The Valley Air District has also partnered with professional baseball teams to promote Spare the Air and encourage carpooling. Baseball teams in Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto, Visalia and Stockton are holding Spare the Air nights where ticket price discounts encourage fans to carpool to games. Spare the Air public service announcements and radio messages encouraging air friendly behaviors also are part of the promotion. The Valley Air District thanks the Valley Yellow Pages for their sponsorship.

For further Spare the Air details and game information please contact Charlie Goldberg in Public Education at [559] 230-5851.

**Ayuda a  
mantener  
el aire  
limpio  
para gozar  
un día  
soleado.**

- Comparta el viaje al trabajo y ocasiones sociales.
- Camine cuando pueda, use la bicicleta, utilice el transporte público.
- Use un cortador de césped eléctrico o manual.
- Posponga el uso del motor de su lancha o vehículo de todo terreno por 24 horas.

## **Cuidar el Aire por el bien de todos**



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*This newspaper advertisement is part of this summer's Spare the Air campaign. "Ayuda a mantener el aire limpio para gozar un día soleado" translates from Spanish to English as "Help keep the air clean so we can enjoy a pleasant day."*



## **Call for 2001 Awards of Distinction Nominations**

The Valley Air District is accepting nominations for the 2001 Awards of Distinction. This program recognizes outstanding contributions to air quality improvements in three categories:

- [1] Emissions Control Program for Permitted Sources,
- [2] Development and Application of Innovative Technology, and
- [3] Outstanding Efforts on Behalf of Spare the Air.

Recipients will be honored at the District's Governing Board Meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Any individual or organization may submit nominations in any category. A nomination form is included in this issue of *Valley Air News*. For additional information, please call Janis Parker in Public Education at [559] 230-5852.



## Recent CDC Study Links Improved Air Quality with Decreased Emergency Visits for Asthma

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] recently released a study showing that decreased citywide use of automobiles in Atlanta during the 1996 Summer Olympics led to improved air quality and a large decrease in childhood emergency room visits for asthma. Atlanta's inner-city children on Medicaid seemed to benefit the most from this Olympic experiment in city transportation planning, by showing a 42 percent decrease in asthma-related emergency room visits. The study was published in the February 21, 2001 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Asthma is a substantial public health problem in the United States. It is a leading cause of childhood illness and can be life threatening. Some estimates show that the prevalence of asthma among children 18 years of age is as high as 6.9 percent.

"Many studies have shown a link between high air pollution days and worsening asthma symptoms which may lead to emergency room visits. But the impact of citywide transportation changes on air quality and childhood asthma had not been previously studied," reported Michael Friedman, MD, epidemiologist in CDC's environmental health program and lead author of the study.

The alternative transportation strategy that Atlanta implemented during the 1996 Summer Olympic Games provided a unique opportunity to study this link. During the Olympics, strategies to decrease potential road traffic and congestion problems were implemented. These included the closure of the downtown area to car traffic, increased access to public transportation through additional buses and trains, and promotion of flexible work schedules, car-pooling, and telecommuting for Atlanta workers.

Typically, the morning rush hour is the critical time of day when air pollutants build up, subsequently leading to elevated levels of ozone later in the day. In this study, however, the authors found that automobile use decreased most dramatically during the morning weekday commute. The observed decrease in automobile use was due to dramatic increases in public transportation use and a widespread implementation of alternative downtown commuting schedules

The study compared data on the number of emergency medical visits for asthma and nonasthma-related conditions during the Olympic Games to a four-week period before and after the Olympics. Although some Atlanta residents left the city during the Olympics, the total number of emergency medical visits did not change during that period, while the number of emergency asthma visits decreased significantly. The study statistically linked the prolonged improvements in ozone and particulate matter pollution to a drop in emergency visits for asthma. The study also found that traffic pattern changes, rather than weather changes, seemed to account for most of the improved air quality in Atlanta.

"Our study is important because it provides evidence that decreasing automobile use can reduce the burden of asthma in our cities and that citywide efforts to reduce rush-hour automobile traffic through the use of public transportation and altered work schedules is possible in America," added Friedman.

Asthma is a very complicated disease with many possible causes. Air pollution resulting from automobile congestion is only one factor that may trigger an asthma event requiring emergency care. Therefore, efforts to decrease automobile emissions and improve air quality may not help everyone's asthma. But this study demonstrates that the reduction of these emissions may have a significant impact on the overall public health burden of asthma, especially in the inner cities.

Additional information on this study is available @ [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.jama.com](http://www.jama.com).

# Valley Air District Directory

## San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Smog Info Line [800] 766-4463  
 Smoking Vehicle [800] 559-9247  
 Job Line [559] 230-6019

## Northern Region Office [209] 557-6400

Complaint Line [800] 281-7003  
 Small Business Assistance [209] 557-6446

## Central Region Office [559] 230-6000

Complaint Line [800] 870-1037  
 Small Business Assistance [559] 230-5888

## Southern Region Office [661] 326-6900

Complaint Line [800] 926-5550  
 Small Business Assistance [661] 326-6969

## Internet

Valley Air District Web Site [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

# 2001 Governing Board

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