

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
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## District lays out draft PM 2.5 Plan

The 2012 PM2.5 Plan will address how the San Joaquin Valley intends to meet the 2006 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for 24-hour PM2.5 (particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or less in diameter).

The plan builds off the previous 2008 PM 2.5 and 2007 Ozone plans and will continue to be revised and updated throughout the public evaluation process.

Over 500 regulations and amendments have already been adopted as part of the District's previous air quality plans. Those measures have shown great improvement in the Valley's air quality and will be included in the new PM2.5 plan as part of the far-reaching strategies to achieve more pollution reductions.

PM2.5 can be inhaled deeply into the lungs, often aggravating asthma, reducing lung function, causing chronic bronchitis and even premature death. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes periodic health-based standards for air pollutants like PM2.5. States and local agencies, including the San Joaquin Valley Air District (District), then develop strategies for improving local air quality to meet EPA standards.

The District is still at work on meeting the 1997 PM2.5 standard with an annual average of 15 micrograms per cubic meter and a 24-hour average of 65 micrograms per cubic meter. That standard must be attained no later than April 2015.

The 2012 PM2.5 Plan aims to meet the 2006 standard with the same annual average of the 1997 standard, and a lower 24-hour average of 35 micrograms per cubic meter, by 2019.

Emission reduction measures in the plan include a stricter residential wood burning rule, a rule addressing under-fired charbroilers in restaurants and accelerating the retirement of older on- and off-road equipment.

A public workshop will be held on October 9, via video teleconference at all three District offices in Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield, to allow public input on the Plan.

## Calendar contest entry deadline nears

The Valley Air District is looking for creative student artists to enter the 2013 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar contest!

The calendar features the artwork of 14 students from throughout the eight-county air basin. Any Valley student in grades K-12 is eligible. Classroom projects are welcome. The entry deadline is Oct. 8.

The Kids' Calendar is a four-color, bilingual wall calendar that carries clean-air messages and showcases Valley student artists. The District distributes 20,000 copies free of charge to schools, community groups, libraries, healthcare facilities, churches and nonprofit organizations throughout the Valley.



The calendar is a great reminder that everyone has a role to play toward improved air quality.

Here are the guidelines for creating a winning entry:

- Paper should be placed sideways (landscape orientation) so it is 8-1/2 inches high and 11 inches across.
- Artwork should be in color.
- Artwork should contain a message about how to live a Healthy Air life. Some examples from past calendars are "Clean air rocks!" "Haz un cambio. Camina en lugar de manejar." "We can all help clean the air!"
- Bilingual and Spanish messages are encouraged.

Artists must include their name and address, phone number and/or e-mail contact, age, grade and school on the back of the artwork. Please mail art flat, not folded, to 2013 Kids Calendar, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726, or turn in your art at the nearest District office.

Winning drawings for the 2012 calendar and more information about the 2013 contest are at [http://www.valleyair.org/kids/clean\\_air\\_calendar\\_contest.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/kids/clean_air_calendar_contest.htm) and <http://www.healthyairliving.com/upcoming-events/kids-calendar-contest.htm>.

For more information, call the District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), in Modesto (209-557-6400) or in Bakersfield (661-392-5500).