

VALLEY AIR NEWS



A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - January 2013

Air District adopts 2012 PM2.5 Attainment Plan

In December, the Valley Air District's Governing Board approved an ambitious plan designed to meet the federal standard for fine-particulate matter (PM2.5) by 2019.

The 2012 PM2.5 Plan builds upon the previous 2008 PM2.5 and the 2007 Ozone plans and contains additional strategies to achieve the federal health-based standard as expeditiously as possible.

"The District has left no stone unturned in evaluating and reducing all sources of PM2.5 emissions," said Samir Sheikh, Air District Strategies and Incentives director.

the Governing Board with proposed amendments in 2014.

Possible amendments to the rule include lowering the threshold for "No-burn days" from 30 to 20 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The Governing Board may also consider allowing cleaner units, such as EPA Phase II wood-burning devices and pellet-fueled heaters to be used on prohibited days.

Where the Air District does not have the authority to regulate emissions, such as mobile sources, incentive programs are used by targeting on- and off-road vehicles and equipment, as well as encouraging the development of new emission-reducing technology.

The Air District also has an innovative Outreach and Communications division, which constantly seeks new ways to educate and empower the public to get involved in efforts to improve the Valley's air quality.

The plan was developed following rigorous scientific research and modeling, and extensive input from stakeholders, including industry and the general public.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set the first PM2.5 standard in 1997, and in 2005, designated the San Joaquin Valley as a nonattainment area. That standard had two limits of attainment: an annual average of $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and a 24-hour average of $65 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The Air District adopted a plan in 2008 to meet that standard by 2015.

In 2006, the EPA tightened the 24-hour standard to $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The 2012 Plan demonstrates attainment for the newer 2006 standard.

For complete information on the 2012 PM2.5 Attainment Plan, visit the Air District's website at: www.valleyair.org.

District welcomes new Governing Board members

Three new Governing Board members began their terms this month.

In the Northern Region, new to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors as well as the District's Governing Board, is Bob Elliott, a former Tracy City Councilman. Supervisor Elliott spent 30 years serving his country in the U.S. Army and later worked for General Electric and Westinghouse.

Bob Elliott

Supervisor Elliott fills a vacancy on both boards left by outgoing Supervisor Leroy Ornellas.

In the Central Region, longtime Governing Board member and Madera County Supervisor Ronn Dominici's seat is being filled by Supervisor and private business owner Tom Wheeler.



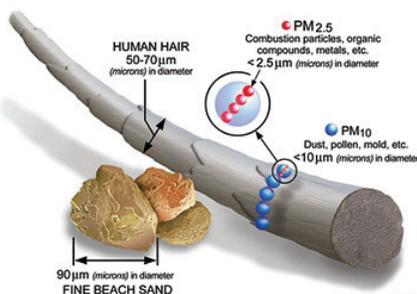
Tom Wheeler

In the Southern Region, outgoing Kern County Supervisor Raymond Watson is succeeded by recently elected Supervisor David Couch. Supervisor Couch left his position on the Bakersfield City Council when elected to the county board, but maintains his job as a financial advisor.

A new city representative will be selected and appointed to the Governing Board from Merced County on Jan. 29.

The Valley Air District's Governing Board is made up of a supervisor from each of the Valley's eight counties, five city representatives from throughout the Valley and two members of the public appointed by the governor: a medical doctor and a scientist with a focus on air pollution.

David Couch



In addition to reducing directly emitted PM2.5, the plan also focuses on reducing nitrogen oxide emissions, which is a critical pollutant in forming both PM2.5 and ground-level ozone.

Regulations to reduce PM2.5 emissions addressed in the plan affect stationary sources such as boilers, steam generators, stationary engines, glass-melting furnaces and turbines, as well as employer commuting programs, commercial cooking and residential wood burning.

One of the most publicized and effective regulatory measures addressed in the plan is the residential wood-burning rule. Rule 4901 Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters, which prohibits wood burning on days when air quality is poor, reduces the number of wood-burning devices in new developments and requires old wood stoves and inserts be removed when homes are sold, will be brought to