

# VALLEY AIR NEWS



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

## Alt-fuel vehicle and infrastructure grants open for public agencies

The Valley Air District is accepting applications under the Public Benefit Grants Program to help public agencies purchase new, alternative-fueled vehicles.

Cities, counties, water and irrigation districts and public educational institutions within the Valley air basin are eligible for funding for electric, plug-in hybrid and natural-gas vehicles.

Eligible agencies can receive up to \$20,000 per vehicle and \$100,000 per year.

The District is also seeking proposals from public agencies for alternative fuel infrastructure projects with a funding cap of \$3 million per project.

An informational meeting to address questions from potential applicants interested in submitting a proposal will be held at all three District offices in



*This Ford Transit Connect runs on compressed natural gas.*

Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield via video teleconference on Aug.13.

Funding for both programs is on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2013.

For full details on the Public Benefit Grants Program, visit: [www.valleyair.org/Grant\\_Programs/GrantPrograms.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/GrantPrograms.htm) and click on "Grants and Incentives" or call 559-230-5800.

## EJAG moves to bimonthly meetings

Beginning in August, the Valley Air District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) will meet on the fourth Thursday of every other month.

The EJAG was formed as part of the Valley Air District's 2007 Environmental Justice Strategy and established in 2008 to encourage grass-roots participation in District activities and outreach, and to ensure that all of the populations of the Valley are involved in all aspects of the District's mission to improve public health by attaining health standards.

The EJAG's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2013 is:

- August 22 at 5:30 p.m.
- October 24 at 5:30 p.m.
- December 5 at 5:30 p.m.

More information on the Environmental Justice Advisory Group is available at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org), or by calling the Valley Air District's Outreach and Communications Department at 559-230-6000.



## Air Alerts help prevent 1-hour ozone exceedances

Each year during late summer, the Valley Air District declares Air Alert notifications when air quality threatens to exceed the federal 1-hour ozone standard.

In recent years, exceedances of this standard have fallen primarily during the back-to-school timeframe. Emissions from the increased traffic and vehicle idling associated with schools being back in session is a key contributor to these exceedances.

When an Air Alert is issued, the District urges Valley residents and organizations to take action to reduce smog-forming emissions.

The Air District uses multiple methods of communication to alert the public of an Air Alert: news releases, advertising, website postings, Facebook, Twitter and email blasts.

Here are some steps that Valley residents and businesses can take to avoid an exceedance during an Air Alert.



Residents can:

- Refrain from idling when dropping off/picking up students
- Have your children walk or ride their bikes to school either with an adult or a group of neighborhood kids
- Carpool, vanpool or use alternate transportation
- Refrain from using drive-through services
- Use electric lawn-care equipment instead of gas
- Refrain from barbecuing, or use a propane barbecue instead of charcoal

Businesses and municipalities can:

- Shift operations that create emissions to early morning or late evening
- Offer flexible work schedules for employees
- Promote carpools and vanpools for employees
- Implement telecommuting

To learn more about Air Alerts, other Air District programs and to sign up for Air Alert notifications by e-mail, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).