



# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - February 2016

## Communicating daily and hourly air quality information

In October 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the federal 8-hour ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb and in turn, updated the Air Quality Index (AQI) scale to match the latest ozone standard.

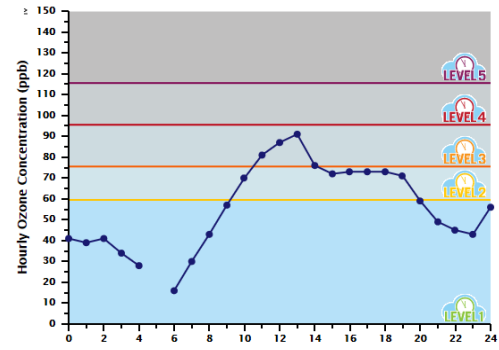
The formulas used for calculating the AQI are tied to the national ambient air quality standards set by the EPA for each pollutant. Therefore, as standards change, the calculated AQI changes accordingly.

In January 2016, the District's Governing Board took action to adopt the new AQI scale before the 2016 ozone season for reporting, forecasting, and analysis.

AQI Category	Index Values	2008 AQI Breakpoints (ppb, 8-hour average)	2015 AQI Breakpoints (ppb, 8-hour average)
Good	0 - 50	0 - 59	0 - 54
Moderate	51 - 100	60 - 75	55 - 70
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	76 - 95	71 - 85
Unhealthy	151 - 200	96 - 115	86 - 105
Very Unhealthy	201 - 300	116 - 374	106 - 200
Hazardous	301 - 500	375 to the Significant Harm Level*	201 to the Significant Harm Level*

In addition to complying with the federal requirement to report the daily AQI to the public, the District has instituted a more advanced public education program using the District's ground-breaking Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) system which provides Valley schools, parents and the general

public with real-time access to hour-by-hour local air quality conditions.



The District is also launching a focused public outreach effort to help avoid public confusion with the new AQI while encouraging the utilization of the District's more health-protective RAAN system. Part of the District's outreach efforts will be an assessment of the need for potential changes to the Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) guidelines for ozone.

The District will couple this education effort with the Healthy Air Living Schools initiative further educating individuals about RAAN and the AQI.

Finally, District staff will consult health experts and work with schools to gauge anticipated participation under varying RAAN action levels that may potentially be changed by the new AQI scale.

## Mark your calendar for these important events

February 20: Tune In & Tune Up - Kern County Raceway Park, 8am-12n.

March 5: Tune In & Tune Up - Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock, 8am-12n.

March 8: Air Quality Challenges in the San Joaquin Valley - Public presentation by Valley Air District, Regional Environmental Studies Center, Manteca, 5:30pm-6:45pm.

March 10: REXPO XII (El Niño) Stockton Hilton, [stocktonchamber.org](http://stocktonchamber.org).

March 19: Tune In & Tune Up - Mosqueda Community Center, Fresno Fairgrounds, 8am-12n.

April 9: Tune In & Tune Up - Stockton, San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, 8am-12n.

April 22: Earth Day - Golden Valley Health Center, Merced, 10am-3pm.

April 23: Greater Bakersfield Green Expo - Yokuts Park, 8am-1pm.

April 23: Earth Day Festival - Modesto - Graceada Park, 10am-4pm.

April 23: Earth Day Festival - Visalia, St. John's Riverwalk Park, 10am-2pm.

April 23: Fresno Earth Day - Radio Park, 10am-4pm.

April 23: Tune In & Tune Up - Lemoore, West Hills College, 8am-12n.

April 24: Earth Day Celebration Stockton, Victory Park, 10am-4pm.

May 17: Bike to Work Day Newman, 6:30am-8:30am

May 19: Bike to Work Day Modesto - 10th St. Place, 6:30am-8:30am.

May 26: Bike to Work Lodi, 6:30am-8:30am.

More information to come, on all listed events.

