

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
MEDIA RELEASE**

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Lawnmower trade-in returns to the Valley

For the second year, Valley residents will have the opportunity to swap their old, polluting mowers for a 50 percent discount toward a cordless, rechargeable mower. Based on tremendous success last year, the Valley Air District is bringing back the Clean Green Yard Machines program with some important modifications. This year, trade-in events will be held in Stockton on April 13, Merced on April 20 and Visalia on April 27.

As in the past, residents of any part of the Valley may turn in their gasoline lawnmowers and pay \$178 – half of the retail price – for a Black and Decker CMM 1000 electric, rechargeable mower. To reduce long waits for program participants, however, the District is now accepting reservations for all three events on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Five hundred mower reservations are available for the Stockton event, 300 for Merced and 400 in Visalia.

Valley residents wishing to participate can reserve mowers by sending in the participant name, address and phone number by U.S. mail to 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave, Fresno, CA 93726 or via e-mail through the District's website at www.valleyair.org. They should indicate the event in which they wish to participate and a preference for morning or afternoon. The District will confirm reservations by return mail with specific appointments. Only those with confirmed reservations will be given trade-in appointment times; others will be placed on phone waiting lists for the preferred event in case someone fails to keep a scheduled appointment time. Some residents will also be able to use a reservation form appearing in

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the Atwater Signal, Hanford Sentinel, Livingston Chronicle, Merced Sun-Star, Record, Tulare Advance Register and Visalia Times Delta.

The Black & Decker CMM1000 mower offered through the Clean Green Yard Machines program is a top-of-the-line, battery-powered mower. It features a 24-volt battery with torque equivalent to a 5-horse powered gasoline mower. The mower can be charged overnight (during off-peak energy times) with a basic electrical outlet. It will cut 1½ hours on a full charge.

Because gasoline lawn mowers are not required to meet the same emission standards as automobiles, they are major contributors to summertime air pollution problems. There are 250,000 gasoline mowers in the Valley emitting high levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides. A standard gas mower running for one hour emits as much pollution as operating 40 late model cars for the same amount of time. Additionally, it is estimated that Americans spilled 17 million gallons of gas filling their mowers last year, creating additional polluting emissions.

By replacing 1,200 gasoline mowers this summer, the Valley Air District will reduce an additional 1.66 tons of emissions this summer and 11.62 tons over the lifetime of the new mowers. The metals from the old mowers will be recycled, taking them out of operation permanently. Also, owners who use the mower's mulching option will reduce cutting time and diminish the solid waste clippings going to area landfills.

The Valley Air District sponsors the program with support from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the Counties of Merced and Tulare. Detailed information is available in both English and Spanish on the District's Smog Information line: 1-800-766-4463.