

News Release



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Board approves ozone plan

Goal is federal attainment by 2010

(Oct. 8) The Governing Board today approved an aggressive plan to reduce smog levels in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District by Nov.15, 2010.

The plan is designed to reduce peak levels of ozone – the primary component of smog – in the eight-county District over the next six years. The Valley is one of the country's dirtiest air basins and was reclassified this year as being in "extreme" nonattainment of federal one-hour ozone standards. Previously, the District was classified as "severe" nonattainment, which carried a deadline of Nov. 15, 2005. Failure to meet the attainment deadline would mean a loss of billions of dollars in transportation funding and imposing fees on Valley businesses.

"We're very pleased with the board's endorsement of this far-reaching plan," said Dave Crow, the District's air pollution control officer. "We're confident that we will reach attainment in the timeframe specified in the plan."

The plan will now be submitted to the state Air Resources Board and then go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

In order to reach attainment, the District must reduce emissions of two ozone precursors, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. The new plan aims to do that through a variety of measures, including components of the previously adopted PM10 plan, new measures undertaken primarily to comply with state law, and long-term measures.

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Also, state emissions standards for cars, diesel engines and lawnmowers will contribute significantly to reductions, as 60 percent of the Valley's ozone problem is a result of vehicle use.

The District does not have jurisdiction over vehicles.

As always when the District develops a new plan, officials worked closely with the Valley's diverse stakeholders to craft a feasible, effective plan.

"We're all affected by the plan and we will all realize the benefits," Crow said.

For more information about the one-hour ozone plan and supporting documentation, log onto www.Valleyair.org.

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