

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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Public workshop scheduled to discuss particulate matter air pollution

The public is invited to workshops to discuss technical issues that will be addressed in the San Joaquin Valley's plan to reduce pollution from airborne particles called particulate matter ten microns and smaller (PM10.)

The workshops are scheduled for 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26 at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District central office located at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. in Fresno. Residents also can participate via video teleconference at the Air District's regional offices at 2700 M Street, Suite 275 in Bakersfield and at 4230 Kiernan Ave., Suite 130 in Modesto.

The Valley air basin currently doesn't meet federal or state limits on PM10 air pollution. During the workshop, representatives of the Air District and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) will present an overview of the region's PM10 problem. They also will explain air quality computer models, how the emissions inventory is developed and used, the reductions required to achieve air quality standards throughout the air basin, and other technical issues. Participants will be able to ask questions and make comments about the information presented. The workshop isn't designed to address specific rules or potential pollution control measures.

The Air District is required to submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a plan showing how the Valley will achieve federal air quality standards. In order for the Valley to avoid sanctions, the PM10 Attainment Plan must be deemed complete by the EPA no later than August 28, 2003.

Following the upcoming workshops, more public sessions will be scheduled to discuss information that isn't yet available, such as air quality models and specific control strategies. Once a draft PM10 attainment plan is written, it will be presented to the public for review and comment.