

News Release

12-08-2005

For Immediate Release

TO:

Local news, business, and
assignment editors



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Air Pollution
Control District

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Air District and Modesto Tallow Reach Settlement

Rendering plant will be shut down after repeated air-quality violations

(Fresno, CA) – After years of residents' complaints of air-quality violations, Modesto Tallow has agreed to permanently close its facility and cease all operations by Dec. 31, 2006.

The Valley Air District filed a lawsuit in August requesting the plant be shut down due to repeated violations of air-pollution control requirements. The legal action resulted in a stipulated court judgment filed Friday in Stanislaus Superior Court.

The judgment is legally enforceable by the court, and is a direct result of the Air District's commitment to finding a firm, long-term resolution to the situation. The details are:

- Modesto Tallow agrees to immediately cease processing raw animal matter and surrender its Air District permits for the animal processing portion of the facility;
- Modesto Tallow may continue processing chicken feathers until May 3, 2006, and agrees to install additional control equipment;
- Modesto Tallow may operate a transfer station at the facility until Dec. 31, 2006, but agrees to limit the amounts and types of materials it can transfer;
- Modesto Tallow agrees to a permanent injunction prohibiting it from violating its Air District permits and District rules; and
- Modesto Tallow agrees to permanently close the facility and cease all operations by Dec. 31, 2006.

To address air quality issues, the Air District for more than a decade has required Modesto Tallow to implement improvement plans that focused on installing costly equipment, such as thermal oxidizers. Although the facility purchased and installed the equipment, the situation didn't improve.

"Modesto Tallow had years to clean up its act, yet it continued to be a poor neighbor for the community," said Dave Crow, the District's Air Pollution Control Officer. "The District took the bold step to force Modesto Tallow to either clean up its act or shut down for good."

Modesto Tallow located at this site in 1917. At the time it was an agricultural area. Over time and over Modesto Tallow's objection homes and schools were built around the plant. Unfortunately, as a result of this action approximately 65 people will lose their jobs. "We regret that closure of the facility became our only option," said Bill Shirley of Modesto Tallow.

The Valley Air District serves eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900, or visit www.valleyair.org.