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Seyed Sadredin

**Executive Director** Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region Office 4800 Enterprise Way Modesto, CA 95356-8718 (209) 557-6400 • FAX (209) 557-6475

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Southern Region Office 2700 M Street, Suite 275 Bakersfield, CA 93301-2373 (661) 326-6900 • FAX (661) 326-6985 June 2, 2008

Supervisor Tom Mayfield, Board Chair County of Stanislaus 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500 Modest, CA 95354

**SUBJECT: County Participation in Healthy Air Living Initiative** 

Supervisor Mayfield:

The purpose of this letter is to invite your county to help improve the San Joaquin Valley's air quality by actively participating in our Healthy Air Living initiative.

Understanding that the Valley's counties are concerned with the physical well-being of their residents, the Valley Air District wants to invite your region to be a part of the growing movement to take action to improve the San Joaquin Valley's air quality. The ultimate goal of the Healthy Air Living initiative is to create a culture where air quality is a top priority in the day-to-day decision making by businesses, individuals, and municipalities.

In addition to working with businesses throughout the Valley, we hope to partner with the Valley's counties for several reasons. First, many communities are already engaged in a process of "greening" their operations and workplace cultures. Second, quite simply, a county's facilities and operations can be an influential showcase for environmentally responsible practices, such as ridesharing, clean fleets, green building, and sustainable lawn and garden care. Third, as large employers, counties have the capacity to influence their employees' behavior for the common good.

Specifically, we ask your county to consider adopting a proclamation (sample enclosed) declaring July 7 through 13, 2008 as Healthy Air Living Week in your region. We ask that, in your proclamation, you highlight the air friendly policies or activities that your county is presently engaged in, as well as your pledge to take on new air friendly policies or activities during Healthy Air Living week.

Please review the enclosed material as examples of air friendly activities and policies that your county may want to consider. The sample proclamation has space for your region to proudly showcase Healthy Air Living June 2, 2008 Page 2

the air-friendly practices your county is doing already, as well as space for your additional bold commitments for Healthy Air Living Week.

We especially seek your help in reminding your employees and residents before Healthy Air Living Week, that everyday actions and decisions can impact the Valley's air quality, and that each person can make the Valley a healthier place to live. As a respected leader of your community, your Healthy Air Living pledge will help to inspire and provide cleaner, healthier air for the residents of the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, adopting a proclamation,

- Allows your county to be listed as a Healthy Air Living Partner on the Healthy Air Living website and in Valley newspapers.
- Enables your county to call on Valley Air District staff for an individual presentation and consultation on what more your region can do to help clean the Valley's air.
- Allows your county employees to enter the Healthy Air Living drawing for a new Toyota Prius hybrid. Employees can enter by filling out personal pledge cards, which are available at www.healthyairliving.com, or any District office.

I am hopeful that you will join us as we put our many shoulders to the plow to clean up the Valley's air. Please visit us online at <a href="www.healthyairliving.com">www.healthyairliving.com</a> if you have any questions, and feel free to call me at (559) 230-6036 if you wish to meet with me regarding this matter. I would also appreciate it if you would notify Sherrie Vidaurri at (559) 230-6032 or <a href="mailto:sherrie.vidaurri@valleyair.org">sherrie.vidaurri@valleyair.org</a> as to when your county will be adopting its Healthy Air Living proclamation.

Sincerely,

Seved Sadredin

Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

CC:

CAO Rick Robinson

SJVAPCD Board Member William O'Brien

Enclosures:

Sample Proclamation Healthy Air Living brochure

## **PROCLAMATION**

The Valley faces unprecedented challenges in realizing clean WHEREAS, air due to our perfect environment for pollution created by our natural geography and topography; WHEREAS, Although advancement toward clean air has been made through innovation and participation among all segments of the Valley, we have a long way to go; In order to meet health-based standards for clean air in the WHEREAS, San Joaquin Valley, which will result in better health and an improved quality of life for Valley residents, we must reduce our emissions Valleywide; Reducing our emissions requires the active participation of WHEREAS, every organization and individual; WHEREAS. The [governing body] has embraced air-quality improvement through [\_\_\_], [ ] and [ ]; WHEREAS, The Valley Air District's Healthy Air Living initiative encompasses a year-round approach to weaving choices into the fabrics of our lives on a daily basis that result in cleaner air and therefore better health for the Valley's residents; and WHEREAS, The Air District has designated July 7-13, 2008 as Healthy Air Living Week in order to showcase and encourage healthy-air choices Valleywide; WHEREAS, We [agency] is committed to the goal of clean air and believes that we can be an active part of the solution. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, [\_\_\_\_], do hereby proclaim July 7-13, 2008, to be "Healthy Air Living Week."

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, [governing body], do hereby make a commitment to the following actions during that week:

(Choose the options that best fit your community)

- 1. Subsidize mass transit for employees or offer reduced fares for all ridership
- 2. Adopt a clean fleet procurement policy
- 3. Adopt a green contracting/purchasing policy for goods and services
- 4. Participate in the "Commute Green in the San Joaquin" corporate rideshare challenge
- 5. Switch to low-solvent cleaning products
- 6. Plant shade trees
- 7. Avoid operation of lawn-care and diesel equipment during afternoon hours and during ozone episodes
- 8. Install solar photo-voltaic panels or solar water heating for our facilities
- 9. Enhance and accelerate maintenance and tune-ups of vehicles and equipment
- 10. Evaluate supply distribution operations to reduce truck traffic and fuel use
- 11. Plan scheduled shutdowns to occur during Healthy Air Living week or other high pollution days
- 12. Schedule an energy audit and implement energy efficiency measures
- 13. Establish telecommuting options for employees
- 14. Investigate the installation of a video teleconference system
- 15. Offer financial incentives to employees to reduce commute vehicle usage
- 16. Adopt a 9/80 or 4/10 work schedule to reduce trips to work
- 17. Explore and adopt measures to avoid diesel vehicle idling
- 18. Provide preferred parking for carpools
- 19. Link employees to carpooling and vanpooling resources
- 20. Provide secure storage and showers for bicycle commuters
- 21. Provide direct deposit of paychecks for employees
- 22. Provide onsite childcare
- 23. Provide bicycles for employees to use for short trips during the workday
- 24. Organize lunch ordering and delivery, lunch truck availability or an inhouse cafeteria or snack shop
- 25. Sponsor in-house lunchtime activities for employees
- 26. Allow employees to use the Internet for personal business during breaks and lunch
- 27. Arrange for onsite dry cleaning drop-off and pick-up at your workplace
- 28. Donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Community Clean Air Fund for the San Joaquin Valley administered by the Fresno Regional Foundation

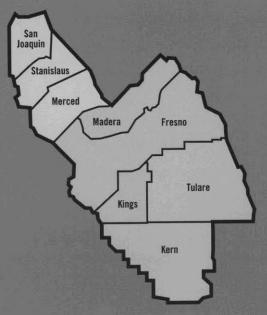


# AIR QUALITY IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Despite years of improvements, residents in the San Joaquin Valley air basin breathe some of the most colluted air in the nation. The air basin fails to meet federal and state health-based standards for ozone and particulate matter. Ozone is primarily a problem during mot summer months, when chemicals from vehicle and other emissions cook in sunlight and heat to form smog. Particulate matter occurs primarily during the fall and winter, when strong inversion layers keep particles of dust, smoke and other toxins from dispersing. These pollutants are harmful to health, and can lead to respiratory problems, heart attacks, cancer and premature death.

The geography of California's Central Valley is a perfect lab for the formation of ozone and harmful particles. We have mountains on three sides, hot summer temperatures, winter fog formation and little wind to move air pollution out of the Valley. More than 80 percent of our air pollution comes from vehicles such as diesel trucks, cars, SUVs and trains.

For more information about Healthy Air Living, visit www.healthyairliving.com or call the nearest District office.



#### Northern Region

Serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties 4800 Enterprise Way Modesto, CA 95356-9322 Tel: 209-557-6400 FAX: 209-557-6475

#### Central Region (Main Office)

Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue Fresno, CA 93726-0244 Tel: 559-230-6000 FAX: 559-230-6061

#### Southern Region

Serving Tulare and Valley air basin portions of Kern counties
2700 M Street, Suite 275
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2373
Tel: 661-326-6900 FAX: 661-326-6985



Please visit our web site at www.valleyair.org

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Cleaner Air Starts with YOU!



Tools and Resources to Help Clean Our Air









## **Cleaner Air Starts With You**

Healthy Air Living is a comprehensive initiative by the Valley Air District to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through cleaner air. It provides tools and strategies to help each of us take voluntary, high-impact measures at our workplaces and in our personal lives.



Healthy Air Living is about working together to make the Valley's air better now and for future generations.

Healthy Air Living aims to make air quality a priority consideration in all business and personal decisions. The initiative highlights business successes that produce both air quality and economic benefits, and investigates new opportunities for the business community to get involved.

## **Caring About The Air Year Round**

For 10 years, the District's Spare the Air program alerted Valley residents on days when summertime air quality was forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Spare the Air asked residents to help reduce harmful, summertime ozone by avoiding pollution-causing behaviors. More than 700 Valley businesses joined us as Employer Partners.

Healthy Air Living takes Spare the Air to the next level. It involves all Valley residents year-round to help us breathe healthier air.

### **Healthy Air Living Goals**

These goals will supplement the Air District's aggressive regulations program:

- Reduce the miles driven through the Valley each day.
- Reduce emissions from equipment and processes that contribute to air pollution.
- Reduce emissions during peak smog episodes.
- Encourage a move to higher energy efficiency and the use of cleaner fuels and equipment.



## An Action-Oriented Program

Partners help the Air District reach goals.

## Business, Industry, Agriculture, Municipalities and Schools

- Present strategies and tools to promote carpooling, telecommuting and alternative transportation.
- Celebrate clean-air successes with Green Awards and Healthy Air Living week.
- Focus on energy efficiency, green contracting and other "wins" for economics and air quality.
- Position air quality at the forefront of internal contracting decisions.

## Live a healthy air life!

### **Environmental and Faith-Based Organizations**

- Develop collaborative outreach strategies to educate and advocate for a better understanding of air-quality issues.
- Encourage environmental stewardship, and provide tools and information to make clean-air choices.

#### Individuals and families

The Healthy Air Living website will help everyone make clean-air choices. Information on air quality and alternative transportation, educational activities and games, interactive discussion forums and emission calculators will show people how to live a healthy air life. For more information, please visit www.healthyairliving.com.