

What is PM2.5 and how does it affect your health?

- › PM2.5 is harmful particles of pollutants in the air that are 20 times smaller than the width of a human hair.
- › PM2.5 is so small that it can get into your lungs and pass into your bloodstream and other parts of your body.
- › Studies link PM2.5 to a lot of health problems, including making asthma worse, coughing, having a hard time breathing, lower lung function in children, chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeats, heart attacks, lung cancer, and even death.

Where does PM2.5 come from?

- › PM2.5 can come directly from burning wood, cooking meat over a fire, and other activities.
- › PM2.5 can also be formed through chemical reactions in the air from sources like tailpipe exhaust from vehicles.

What does the District do to protect the public from PM2.5?

- › For over 20 years, the District has been adopting rules and working with businesses to reduce air pollution. Businesses have spent over \$40 billion to add pollution controls, purchase less polluting equipment, and change work practices to reduce air pollution.
- › In addition to regulations, the District has been very successful in helping bring a lot of money into the Valley to improve air quality. Through the District's successful grant programs, this money is given to businesses, agencies, and residents throughout the Valley to help buy cleaner fireplaces, cars, school buses, trucks, tractors, lawnmowers, and many other types of equipment. Over \$2 billion have been spent on cleaner equipment to reduce over 150,000 tons of air pollution.
- › The District's extensive public outreach and education programs encourage and empower the public to understand air quality issues, take advantage of District tools to stay informed regarding local air quality, take actions to protect themselves when necessary, understand the Valley's unique air quality challenges, and take actions to reduce emissions and improve the Valley's air quality.
- › As a result of all these efforts, air quality in the Valley is now cleaner than it has ever been.
- › The District also adopts many attainment plans to lay out the strategy on how to further reduce emissions and improve public health.

What is the 2018 PM2.5 Plan?

- › Building on several attainment plans that have already been adopted, the 2018 PM2.5 Plan lays out the strategy on how to further clean the air in the Valley and improve public health.
- › For three years, the District and the California Air Resources Board have been working with the public and businesses to develop this Plan to reduce these harmful emissions.

How will the 2018 PM2.5 Plan clean the air in the Valley?

- › In addition to what the District is already doing to protect the public from PM2.5, this Plan identifies new actions to further clean the air in the Valley, including:
 - New regulations to reduce more emissions from flaring, internal combustion engines, boilers/steam generators, glass melting furnaces, agricultural operations, and other local sources.
 - New and enhanced programs to provide financial help to Valley residents and businesses to purchase cleaner equipment and vehicles. This includes residential wood combustion, agricultural internal combustion engines, agricultural equipment, heavy duty trucks, off-road equipment, transit buses, school buses, freight equipment, passenger vehicles, locomotives, commercial lawn and garden equipment, and other sources.
 - Additional regulations and financial help to areas that need more emission reductions than other parts of the Valley to achieve the same level of air quality. The additional regulations and financial assistance would be for replacing wood burning fireplaces with natural gas fireplaces and installing pollution control equipment on restaurants that grill meat over an open fire. These areas include Fresno County, Kern County, and other areas as needed.
 - California Air Resources Board providing needed additional regulations and financial assistance to reduce emissions from heavy-duty trucks, agricultural equipment, locomotives, and off-road equipment.



Where can I learn more about 2018 PM2.5 Plan and how can I get involved?

- › Learn more about the Plan at <http://www.valleyair.org/pmplans>.
- › Submit questions and comments to airqualityplans@valleyair.org.
- › Sign up for updates at http://lists.valleyair.org/mailman/listinfo/pm_plans.

What are the next steps for 2018 PM2.5 Plan?

- › The 2018 PM2.5 Plan was adopted by the District Governing Board on November 15, 2018 and by the California Air Resources Board on January 24, 2019 and has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.
- › Work with California and the federal government to bring billions of dollars to the Valley to pay for cleaner technologies.
- › Implement the strategies identified in the Plan to further clean the air in the Valley and improve public health.