

News Release

For immediate release

9-12-12

For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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District research study measuring ozone levels

Media event to showcase equipment and research plane

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: News conference to explain details of the study and showcase the aircraft-mounted scientific equipment

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Chandler Airport, 510 W. Kearney Blvd., Fresno, behind Terminal Lobby Building on the tarmac next to the plane

WHY: To announce Air District ozone research project

The Valley Air District is currently funding a research project through UC Davis to measure ozone that enters the Valley's airspace from sources outside the U.S., primarily Asia. The project uses aircraft-mounted monitors and surface monitors installed in the mountains east of Big Sur.

The District has a history of funding research projects that provide a solid scientific foundation to the clean-up efforts and regulatory actions necessary to see the Valley reach its challenging clean air goals.

"As we come closer to meeting tough federal standards for air quality, pollution transport from other areas and other countries plays a larger role. This study will allow us to better understand the impact of pollution from sources outside of our control," stated Seyed Sadredin, the District's APCO, executive director.

Valley businesses and farmers are currently subject to some of the toughest air quality regulations in the nation. However, as new more stringent health-based standards are published by the federal EPA, the Valley is required to craft new strategies to meet these tougher standards. In doing so, the District believes it is imperative to use the latest science to quantify all contributors to the Valley's air quality challenge.

There is growing evidence from previous research that transboundary ozone, defined as ozone entering California airspace that was not created in North America, is showing up at ground level monitors in California and elsewhere in the western U.S., where it contributes to public health impacts and exceedances of the Federal 8hr ozone standard.

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District Ozone Study

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Evidence of this impact is especially strong in the northern Sacramento Valley, at Redding, and is considered to be the primary reason why Butte County currently does not meet the 8hr ozone standard. The impact is less clear for the San Joaquin Valley because less research has been conducted in this region.

The U.S. EPA has directed air districts to determine the amount of ozone coming from beyond sources in the US, so that districts have a clear sense of how much ozone is under their control and how much is due to sources beyond EPA's jurisdiction.

Scientific studies also show that while ozone controls in the U.S. have led to declining ozone concentrations due to reduced emissions in the San Joaquin Valley and across the US, substantial increases in emissions of Asian pollution from coal power plants have contributed to a rising concentration of transboundary ozone that travels in prevailing wind currents across the Pacific Ocean.

This research project, funded at \$130,000 over 18 months, is just one of a number of District-funded research projects that are designed to insure that all control measures established by the District are based on a solid scientific foundation.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org, www.healthyairliving.com or call a District office: in Fresno (559-230-6000) in Modesto (209-557-6400) or in Bakersfield (661-392-5500).