



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

Media Advisory

Sept. 19, 2013

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New USDA NRCS Chief Joins Air Quality Leaders for Valley Tour

Media invited to witness old high-polluting tractors being dismembered and recycled to assure better local air quality

WHO: Jason Weller is the newly appointed Chief for the *USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* in Washington D.C. and administers the National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI), which has been widely used in the San Joaquin Valley since its introduction in the 2008 Farm Bill. Weller, a California native, is on his first visit to California as NRCS Chief.

Weller will be joined by farm organizations and by federal, state and local air quality representatives. These include Kerry Drake, associate director of air quality for the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9; Lynn Terry, deputy executive officer of the California Air Resources Board; Seyed Sadredin, executive director and air pollution control officer of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Manual Cunha, director of the Nisei Farmers League, and other stakeholders.

WHAT: Media are invited to join Chief Weller to see firsthand the destruction and recycling of old, high-polluting tractors. Federal and state incentive programs are helping farmers trade-in the more polluting engines for equipment with the cleanest available technology. The reliable destruction of the old equipment guarantees that only the cleaner equipment will be used in the future.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 24, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Bruno's Iron and Metal---3211 S. Golden State Blvd., Fresno. 1.7 miles southeast of Jensen Ave., west side of Golden State Blvd.

WHY: The San Joaquin Valley has some of the most impaired air quality in the United States. Farmers, in conjunction with NRCS and the regulatory community, have been working hard for over a decade to decrease agricultural pollution. In the past 20 years, the San Joaquin Valley has seen a 60% decrease in NOx emissions, a key component of smog. The destruction and recycling of old, polluting equipment assures regulators and the public that these voluntary achievements are real and verifiable, and will contribute to cleaner air in the Valley.

VISUALS/LOGISTICS INFORMATION: Opportunity to video old tractors being dramatically torn apart by large dismantling machines. Ample parking is available. Interview opportunities will be available after the brief tour concludes. Facility is a working scrap metal yard and all are encouraged to dress accordingly. For additional support, please see listed contacts.

--NRCS--

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