

News release

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The District's pioneering strategy renamed to "Health-Risk Reduction Strategy"

In order to better reflect the health benefits attached to a pioneering air-cleanup strategy, the Valley Air District has renamed its Risk-Based Strategy as the Health-Risk Reduction Strategy (HRRS).

The HRRS is the guiding principal by which the District develops and executes plans and regulations to attaining critical health-based, air-quality standards in the quickest, most health-protective, cost-effective manner.

"While we have had much success in reducing levels of air pollution with the previously named Risk-Based Strategy, we believe the new name more accurately reflects the emphasis on the most expeditious manner to achieve the greatest health benefits possible," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "When it comes to the health of the Valley's residents, NO risk is acceptable."

In 2010, the District's Governing Board adopted the groundbreaking Risk-Based Strategy, which focuses the Valley's limited resources on measures that have been shown scientifically to provide the best benefit for public health. These measures address the pollutants for which the Valley is working toward attainment: ozone and fine-particulate matter. This strategy is also gaining widespread support by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the scientific community.

However, the District recognizes that, as effective as this strategy has been in focusing resources on these pollutants, the terminology failed to communicate the fundamental purpose behind all District plans, regulations and strategies: improving the health of the Valley's residents.

The revised nomenclature addresses that paramount concern.

"We are, first and foremost, a public health agency that takes very seriously its mission of meeting these critical health-based air-quality standards, and this new name reflects that mission," Sadredin said.