

# Media advisory

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**Attn: Local news and assignment editors**

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## **Valley weathers heat wave without violating key smog standard** *Moves closer to reaching 1-hour ozone attainment*

Over the last week, many parts of the Valley experienced above normal temperatures in the 90s and above. Sunny days with high temperatures are the ideal climate conditions for trapping and creating ozone. Despite these adverse conditions, nowhere in the Valley did air quality exceed the critical 1-hour federal standard for ozone.

Valley Air District officials credit investment by businesses and the public for reducing emission during the recent record heat wave and avoiding an exceedance of this health-based standard. Since 1980, smog-causing air pollution from Valley businesses has been reduced by eighty percent. This has resulted in significant improvement in air quality and a reduction in the number of exceedances of the increasingly stringent federal standards. The improvement has been dramatic; in 2012 the Valley experienced only two exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard compared to 56 exceedances in 1996.

“We are grateful for the tremendous sacrifice for and investment in air quality made by Valley businesses and residents.” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “We are happy to see these efforts produce cleaner air and a better quality of life for all Valley residents.”

Exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard triggers federal monetary penalties. Because of a handful of exceedances in 2010, the air basin was assessed a \$29 million annual penalty, which will be paid through fees on Valley businesses and residents.

Although the Valley has seen air quality improvements, exceedances are still a threat during the late summer. Exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard – which is set at 125 parts per billion – coincide with the start of the school year and increased back-to-school vehicle traffic.

In the coming months the District will work with schools and parents to reduce vehicle traffic and idling at school during this critical time. This will be done through a targeted outreach and incentive program known as the Healthy Air Living Schools program.

Additionally, the District declares Air Alerts during the late summer when a potential 1-hour ozone exceedance may occur. During an Air Alert, the Air District urges residents and businesses to put air-friendly practices into place that may avert an exceedance.

## Fireplace program begins 10<sup>th</sup> season

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Residents can reduce smog-forming emissions by:

- Refraining from idling when dropping off/picking up students
- Carpooling, vanpooling or alternate transportation
- Refraining from using drive-through services

Businesses and municipalities can reduce emissions by:

- Shifting operations to early morning or late evening (lawn care)
- Offering flexible work schedules
- Promoting carpools and vanpools for employees
- Implementing telecommuting
- Becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner

For more information about Air Alerts, please visit

[http://www.valleyair.org/AirAlert/AirAlert\\_Landing.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/AirAlert/AirAlert_Landing.htm).

To sign up for a free subscription to the Air Alert email notification system please visit

<http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm>.

To receive information about becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner, please visit

[www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).

For more details, please visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the grants department at 559-230-6000.