

For immediate release 3-6-20

Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

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Smoke Impacts from Prescribed Burn in Eastern Fresno County

The public may experience short-term smoke impacts and should take action to protect their health

To continue reducing the fuel load and risk of wildfires in the Sierra National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service is conducting a prescribed burn project in Eastern Fresno County. Smoke from this project is currently visible in eastern Fresno County. Potential smoke impacts are concentrated in the mountainous and foothill areas of the air basin, but may impact adjacent counties as well as the Valley floor, until the prescribed burn project is completed later today.

Due to the unprecedented tree mortality in our mountain and foothill communities, controlled burns conducted by land managers, such as the U.S. Forest Service, help reduce the fuel load in those areas, which lower the risk of catastrophic wildfire as well as the accompanying air quality impacts, property damage, and loss of life that come from large wildfires.

The District is surrounded by high pressure, which is causing stable conditions and low winds. Particulate matter concentrations are trending downward this morning and will improve throughout today. A weather system will enter the region tomorrow that is expected to minimize smoke impacts through the weekend. Any lingering smoke impacts may be more noticeable during the night and early morning hours.

Residents with existing respiratory conditions, young children and elderly people are especially susceptible to the health effects from smoke. Anyone experiencing smoke impacts should move inside to an air-conditioned or heated environment with their windows closed. Residents can use the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to track air quality at any Valley address by visiting myRAAN.com or by downloading the free "Valley Air" app.

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