

News Release

4/23/04



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

Attention: Local News Editors

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Air District Names New Public Education Administrator

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has recently appointed Jaime Holt to the position of Public Education Administrator for the eight-county District. In her new post, Holt will coordinate activities of the District's outreach and education department and work with media and the community to disseminate air quality information.

Holt was hired to replace Josette Merced Bello, who left the administrator position in December after nine years. Merced Bello stepped down from the position to become CEO/President of the American Lung Association of Central California.

Holt brings an extensive background in community relations and public education to the Air District, with professional experience in both Tulare and Kings counties. Originally from Oklahoma, Holt earned a master's degree in Health Promotion from Deakin University in Australia. She relocated to the San Joaquin Valley in 2000 and most recently served as the executive director of Family Networkings, a nonprofit organization working with Kings County First 5 to improve the lives of families and children.

"We're incredibly fortunate to have Jaime on board," said David Crow, the District's air pollution control officer. "Her education and experience, positive attitude and strong work ethic complement the Air District well and will be utilized to serve the communities of the San Joaquin Valley."

Holt will be working with a strong team of talented air quality educators to help better inform the citizens of the valley about air quality issues and in turn clean the air.

"I am thrilled to be working for the Air District, as it is an incredibly well-run organization serving all the residents of the San Joaquin Valley," Holt said. "I hope to bring some new and innovative marketing and strategic planning ideas to the District, while continuing to strengthen the high-caliber programs already in place."

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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