

News Release

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Local News sections



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

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Proposed air rule would reduce development emissions 'Indirect Source Review' up for adoption Thursday

(Fresno, CA) – A proposed rule that would require San Joaquin Valley developers to reduce air-pollution emissions from new projects will undergo a public hearing Thursday when the Valley Air District's Governing Board considers the rule for adoption.

Proposed Rule 9510, Indirect Source Review, would require developers of larger residential, commercial and industrial projects to reduce smog-forming and particulate emissions from their projects' baselines. If adopted, the rule would reduce nitrogen oxides and particulates Valley-wide by 10.5 tons per day by 2010.

New developments increase air pollution by prompting more vehicle trips and creating more pollution-causing activities such as landscape maintenance, fuel combustion and use of consumer products, as well as creating emissions during construction. Each day, about 94 million vehicle miles are traveled on Valley roads and that number is expected to increase as the Valley grows.

Despite years of improved air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, the air basin still fails to meet state and federal health-based standards. Therefore, the Air District is required by federal law to adopt the most stringent control measures available to reduce emissions. Failing to address indirect sources of emissions could result in federal sanctions, such as the loss of an estimated \$2 billion of highway funds per year.

Additionally, California law SB709 specifically requires the Valley Air District to control emissions from indirect sources, such as new developments. Also, the Air District's federally approved plan to meet standards for particulate matter ten microns and smaller, as well as the District-approved ozone attainment plan, include commitments to reducing emissions from indirect sources of pollution.

Under the Indirect Source Review rule, developers would be required to reduce nitrogen oxides by 33 percent and particulates by 50 percent of a project's baseline. The developers would be encouraged to reduce emissions through on-site mitigation, such as: increasing street connectivity within the development; incorporating bicycle- and walker-friendly designs; constructing energy-efficient buildings; integrating mass transit; offering telecommuting and video-conferencing; and other measures.

If projected emissions still exceeded the minimum baseline reductions, a project's developer would be required to mitigate the difference by paying an off-site fee to the Air District, which would then reduce emissions by funding projects such as: upgrading dirty engines to cleaner models; paving unpaved roads; helping purchase low-emission vehicles for public and non-profit fleets; bicycle infrastructure; public transportation subsidies; a planned vehicle-scrapping program; and e-mobility.

"The goal of the rule first and foremost is to get on-site emission reductions," said Dave Crow, the Air District's executive director. "The off-site mitigation is just a backstop."

The proposed rule would apply to new developments expected to create a significant amount of air pollution, such as those that are at least:

- 50 residential units
- 2,000 square feet of commercial space
- 10,000 square feet of government space
- 20,000 feet of medical space
- 25,000 square feet of industrial or educational space, or
- 50,000 square feet of general office space

The agenda for this week's Governing Board meeting also includes proposed rules on wineries; boilers, steam generators and process heaters; and dryers, dehydrators and ovens.

The public is invited to attend the meeting, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Air District's Fresno office at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. The meeting also will be video-conferenced to the District's regional office in Bakersfield at 2700 M St., Suite 275.

For more information or a copy of draft rules, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.