

Tune in & tune up is back. . .again

Central Valley Business News.com, Saturday, October 15, 2011

Through a new partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the nonprofit group Valley Clean Air Now is offering a series of free emissions and diagnostic test events throughout the Central Valley for residents with 1995 vehicles or older.

The next event will be at Merced County Fairgrounds on Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If a vehicle is deemed as a high polluter, Valley CAN will give the owner a \$500 coupon to help cover repairs to bring it into pollution compliance.

“No paperwork, no reporting, no government entities are involved or will be contacted,” it says.

Air district disputes federal fine

By Sabra Stafford, staff writer

Turlock Journal, Friday, October 14, 2011

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is filing an appeal over a federal fine for ozone violation, citing a natural disaster as the cause of the spike.

The air district submitted their appeal to the Environmental Protection Agency to rescind some of the ozone violations recorded over the summer because they were caused by a large wildfire. The air district contends that the Lion Fire in the Sequoia National Forest, which scorched about 20,500 acres, caused abnormally elevated 8-hour ozone readings at the nearby Ash Mountain and Lower Kaweah monitoring stations.

Ozone exceedances come with a hefty penalty. In 2010, the air district surpassed the accepted levels and was fined \$29 million for violating federal air-quality standards. Penalty fees are assessed on businesses that are not using clean-air technology and practices. Additionally, Central Valley residents will have a \$12 fee added to their vehicle registration to pay a portion of the fine.

Air pollution can cause respiratory and heart problems, especially among children, the elderly and those with existing health concerns.

Under federal guidelines, natural events are occurrences outside the control of air quality management agencies that result in exceedances above health-based standards. When this situation occurs, the air management agency may petition EPA to have these exceedances removed from consideration for attainment of the standard.

“The natural events exclusion in federal law exists exactly for incidents such as this,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “Valley residents and businesses should not be penalized for violations over which we have no control.”

In 2011, there were a total of 99 days that encompassed 285 occurrences in which the 8-hour ozone standard was exceeded somewhere in the Valley. Of this total, there were 16 days when the Ash Mountain and Lower Kaweah stations were the only places in the Valley that violated the standard.

District officials also note that the Ash Mountain and Lower Kaweah monitoring stations, located at the elevations of 1,800 feet and 6,400 feet, respectively, are secondary stations and should not be used for assessing air quality conditions on the Valley floor. Unlike other air monitoring stations in the Valley that were cited in strict adherence to federal laws to ensure collection of data that is representative of the quality of air breathed by Valley residents, these stations were

sited and installed by the national park for the primary purpose of measuring pollution levels at the park, which are primarily impacted by wildfires.

"These monitoring stations were not designed to measure air quality in population centers in the Valley and should not be used by the federal government to assess the Valley's attainment of the ambient air quality standards," Sadredin said.

The air district reported that despite the fire, the air basin has seen a significant reduction in 8-hour and 1-hour ozone exceedances. The last three years have had the lowest total number of exceedances for ozone.

"Outside of this wildfire, the air basin had another exceptionally clean summer, for which the Valley residents and businesses must be commended," said Sadredin. "Of course, despite significant progress, the Valley still has the second highest number of 8-hour ozone violations in the nation behind Southern California."

Asthma Coalition hosts medical provider training Wednesday

Hanford Sentinel, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

HANFORD - The Kings County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services/Tobacco Control Program, in collaboration with Kings County Asthma Coalition members, is conducting a training for medical providers Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the Kings County Administration multipurpose room, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd.

Special guest speaker is David R. Lighthall, science advisor for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Lighthall will speak on "Ultrafine Particles: What are they and what are their impacts on asthmatics."

Also speaking will be Dr. Richard S. DeMera of DeMera Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Fresno.

The event is free, and continuing medical units will be offered. For more information or to register, contact Oralia Vallejo at 584-1411 or email to oralia.vallejo@co.kings.ca.us. Registration deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

Around Tulare: Tulare Planning Commission to consider liquor license upgrade for Walmart

Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

The Tulare Planning Commission will consider a request by Walmart to sell liquor at its store at 1100 E. Prosperity Ave. at its meeting Monday.

The request is for a conditional-use permit to upgrade its license for off-sale general liquor.

The property is zoned C-3 (retail commercial).

The Tulare Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. Monday at the Tulare Public Library and Council Chambers, 491 North M St.

For more information, go to www.ci.tulare.ca.us, then click on Boards, Commissions & Committees under Local Government. Click on Planning Commission which will lead to Minutes and Agendas.

Utilities board to convene

The Board of Public Utilities also meets this week. Under consideration is approval of a real property purchase and sale agreement with the Tulare Regional Medical Center for the city's purchase of two adjoining parcels at 128 N. West St. and 140 N. West St.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Tulare Public Library and Council Chambers, 491 North M St.

Also planned for that meeting is presentation of a proclamation in recognition of World Polio Day and the [nomination of Melvin "Skip" Barwick to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's governing board.](#)

Visalia City Council meeting

Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

- When: 7 p.m. Monday
- Where: City Hall Council Chambers, 707 W. Acequia Ave.
- Public comment: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Work session: 4 p.m.
- Getting the agenda: Online at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, click on "City Government," then "Agendas," then "City Council Agendas," then "DATE."
- Next meeting: 7 p.m. Nov. 7, Council Chambers

Key items:

- Update on the Plaza Drive interchange modification and widening project.
- Nomination of council member to San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District governing board to fill vacancy for small city (population of 100,000 or less).