

VALLEY AIR NEWS

Emissions reduced during Health Air Living Week

With the goal of motivating individuals and organizations to try new and innovative strategies to clean up the Valley's air, the Air District dubbed July 7-13 "Healthy Air Living Week," bringing Valley-wide attention to the efforts and activities conducted to inaugurate the year-round initiative.

The intent was to serve as a catalyst for businesses, municipalities and individuals to explore new, air-friendly behaviors in a non-threatening fashion with the ability to revise, redirect and transition to ongoing and year-round behavioral changes.

The District actively demonstrated what can be done during Healthy Air Living Week as a full participant in the effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled through District staff using alternative means of transportation to and from work.

Staff in the Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto offices chose to carpool, walk, take the bus or bike to work all week, as well as work together to further reduce vehicle miles traveled by bringing a sack lunch to work or ordering in as a group.



In photo: Employees from Air District's Modesto office pledging to ride their bikes to work: John Cadrett, Nick Pierce, Jag Kahlon and Tom Busenbark - still riding their bikes to work.

As a result, the District saw the following reductions:

- 381 lbs of emissions saved;
- 26,780 fewer miles traveled;
- 1,232 gallons of fuel not used; and
- \$5,545 dollars saved.

In addition, 23 organizations took such activities a step farther and participated in the Commute Green San Joaquin Challenge, actively competing against each other to see who could get the highest percentage of employees to use alternative commuting methods.

A total of 17, 278 employees were involved in the challenge with the following results for highest percentage rates going to:

Small Category (5 to 20 employees)
Insight Environmental Consultants,
Bakersfield

Medium Category (21 to 100 employees)
Jeffrey / Scott Advertising, Fresno

Large Category (Over 100 employees)
Community Recycling, Lamont

The Air District recognized these employers for winning the challenge with a plaque awarded at the District's August 21st Governing Board meeting and also gave each employer a bicycle as part of the "Green Bike" program, allowing employees to use the office bike to run errands instead of driving.

District honors clean air champions

Part of the Healthy Air Living initiative was a request for the Valley to nominate businesses, non-profit organizations, public agencies and individuals who stand out as role models in the fight to clean the Valley's air. The innovative actions of these 18 winners demonstrate a wide-ranging interest in cleaning up the air in our basin.

The Clean Air Champions listed below were recognized at the District's Governing Board meeting on August 21.

- **Pelco Security** - Fresno County
- **OK Produce** - Fresno County
- **Frito-Lay** - Stanislaus County
- **Costco Distribution Center** - San Joaquin County
- **South San Joaquin Irrigation District** - San Joaquin County
- **Best Buy Distribution Center** - Tulare County
- **Ikea Wholesale** - Kern County
- **Paramount Farms** - Kern County
- **Kings County Area Public Transit Agency**
- **City of Fresno**
- **City of Tulare**
- **Catholic Diocese of Stockton** - San Joaquin County
- **Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno**
- **Golden Valley Health Centers** - Merced County
- **Art Unger, MD** - Kern County
- **Saira Delgado** - Fresno County
- **Tom Sabatino** - Fresno County
- **Josh Reams** - Fresno County

For details regarding the achievements of these Clean Air Champions, go to the Healthy air Living website at www.healthyliving.com.

At right: Governing Board Chair, Leroy Ornellas, presents Clean Air Champion Award to George Burman and Bryan Jessup from Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno.



Prius winner announced at Board meeting

One of the many exciting features of the Healthy Air Living initiative is the "Win a Toyota Prius" contest.

4,600 entries were taken to be placed in the drawing for the hybrid vehicle.

San Joaquin Valley residents, businesses, public agencies and faith-based organizations were able to enter by completing a Pledge card that stated the entrant would adopt a number of air-friendly behaviors to make them eligible.

Residents could also enter by test driving a hybrid vehicle or low-emissions vehicle at any Valley Toyota dealer.

The winner was randomly selected and announced at the District's Governing Board meeting on August 21.