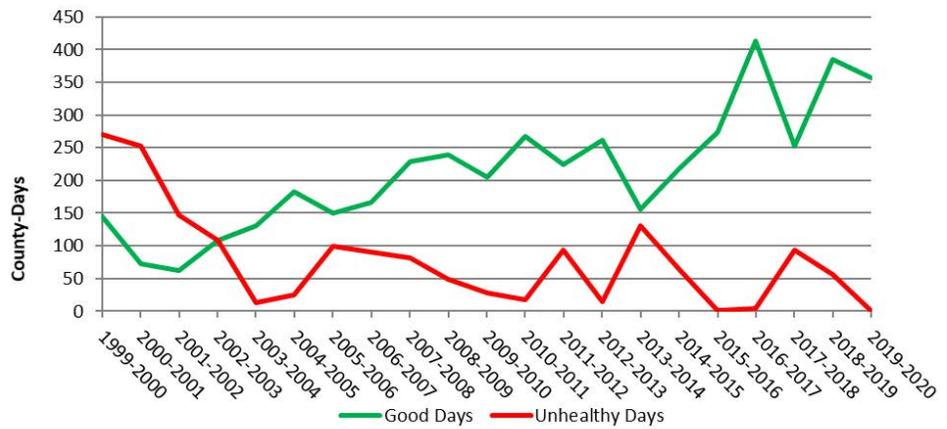


# VALLEY AIR NEWS

April 2020



Good air quality days vs. Unhealthy days during the months of November through February over the past 20 years, Valley-wide

## District responds to COVID-19 emergency

As an essential public health agency and member of the San Joaquin Valley community, we have a responsibility to continue providing essential public services during our current national emergency while keeping ourselves and our communities safe.

By continuing to monitor and communicate air quality information to the public, respond to complaints, work with businesses to fulfill their air quality needs, keep our vendors and grantees paid, and maintain other essential services; we will continue playing our role in protecting the public's health and quality of life.

We also understand the major disruption to the Valley and nation's economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and will work closely with our stakeholders to understand the evolving situation and associated impacts, and develop options for meeting all air quality obligations.

To support essential Valley businesses and organizations, the District is taking actions to prioritize and expedite working with local businesses, municipalities and the public for projects that aid in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The District continues to:

- Take public calls and e-mails and provide excellent customer service
- Respond to all air pollution complaints
- Enforce air pollution rules and regulations
- Process permit and grant applications
- Maintain equipment to provide real-time air quality information
- Monitor air quality and provide a daily air quality forecast
- Hold regularly-scheduled Governing Board and other public meetings virtually
- Continue to search for feasible and commonsense strategies that improve air quality and quality of life for all Valley residents.

For further questions and assistance, contact the District's office at (559) 230-6000.

## Record-setting air quality

Despite being one of the driest winters on record, the Valley continues to progress towards attaining federal PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards and demonstrated significantly improved air quality during the 2019-2020 winter season.

With continued improvements made possible by control strategies such as the District's amended residential wood burning program and a commitment by Valley residents to reduce emissions in their daily activities, the District continues to meet the federal 24-hour standard of 65 micrograms per cubic meter for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and is making continued progress toward meeting the more stringent 24-hour standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter and the annual standards of 15 and 12 micrograms per cubic meter.

In addition the District recorded the lowest average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration across all counties during this winter season, and experienced the fewest days exceeding the federal standards on record!

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