

Chapter 6 – OUTREACH



6 OUTREACH

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Public participation is vital to good air quality and education is crucial to good public participation. When government agencies, major industries, educators, businesses, and the general public work together, advancements are made to improve air quality. The Air District makes every effort to improve public education initiatives and to promote better community cooperation to deal with air pollution problems, as described in Section 4.5.

This section describes outreach that was conducted for the Extreme OADP. Outreach tools include workshops, the Citizen's Advisory Committee, Governing Board presentations, and web site postings.

6.2 PRE-DRAFT PLAN WORKSHOPS

Prior to issuing the Draft *Extreme OADP*, the District held two rounds of public workshops on developing the Plan. The dates of these workshops were, July 23, 2003 for the 1st round and January 6 and 7, 2004 for the second round of workshops. The workshop held on July 23, 2003 covered the technical issues associated with the *Extreme OADP*. About 35 people attended through the Fresno site, 12 at Bakersfield, and 12 at Modesto. The workshop began at 1:30 pm and ended at 4:45 pm. The comment period for this workshop ended on August 7, 2003. Stakeholders submitted about 30 comments in response to information presented at this workshop. The District summarized the comments and provided responses on its website. Two general topics dominated the comments: the transition from the 1-hour ozone standards to the 8-hour ozone standards, and the timing for making the request to be classified as extreme nonattainment for the federal 1-hour ozone ambient air quality standards.

The January 6th and 7th workshops presented more specific information related to the Extreme OADP, and also provided a *Status Report on the development of the Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin*. The District posted the *Status Report* on December 31, 2004, and noticed its availability in the same notices used to announce the workshops. The *Status Report* identified the District and state control measures to appear in the *Extreme OADP*, and discussed preliminary photochemical modeling results and their implication for attainment demonstration. About 30 people attended the first workshop (January 6, 2004) and about 20 attended the second workshop (January 7, 2004). The comment period for these workshops ended on January 23, 2004. Participants at the two workshops made over forty verbal comments, and several other stakeholders submitted written comments. The District summarized the comments and developed responses to these comments that

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were posted on the District website at www.valleyair.org. The topics generating the most comments were the preliminary photochemical modeling results, the need to examine emissions controls on a sub-regional level, the rule development process, and the timing of plan development versus EPA's likely schedule for submitting the *Extreme OADP* to them.

On December 5, 2003, the District held its last workshop on the reclassification of the SJVAB to extreme nonattainment, and much of the discussion dealt with the content and timing of the Extreme OADP. Stakeholders and participants offered several suggestions for control measures to consider. Comments and responses were submitted as part of the December 18, 2003 Governing Board package for requesting reclassification to extreme nonattainment.

6.3 CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) consists of 24 primary and 24 alternate members. Each of the following groups has one unpaid representative from each county in the SJVAB: the Industry/Agriculture, Environment and City. Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Region Office with video-teleconference links to Modesto and Bakersfield. On July 1, 2003 District staff briefed the CAC on ozone and on development of the *Extreme OADP*.

6.4 DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

During 2003 and 2004, District staff briefed the Governing Board a number of times on various issues related to the 1-hour ozone *Extreme OADP*. These briefings were done at regularly scheduled monthly Governing Board meetings as well as at other public Governing Board meetings. On May 16, 2002, the Governing Board discussed the issue of severe vs extreme nonattainment, and adopted the *2002 and 2005 Rate of Progress Plan* that served as a springboard for the *Extreme OADP*. On June 20, 2002, the Governing Board directed District staff to prepare a plan demonstrating attainment of the federal 1-hour ozone standard in the SJVAB by November 15, 2010 (the attainment date for areas classified as extreme nonattainment). On December 19, 2002, the Governing Board adopted the *Amended 2002 and 2005 Rate of Progress Plan for San Joaquin Valley Ozone*, which also provided information for use in the *Extreme OADP*. On February 20, 2003, District staff briefed the Governing Board on the schedule for developing the *Extreme OADP* and the implications of severe vs extreme nonattainment timelines. On August 21, 2003, staff provided the Governing Board with an update on the timing for requesting EPA to reclassify the SJVAB as extreme nonattainment. On December 18, 2003, the Governing

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Board formally requested EPA to reclassify the SJVAB as extreme nonattainment. Agendas and minutes for Governing Board meetings are found on the District's web site at www.valleyair.org.

6.5 WEB SITE POSTINGS

On its web site, the District has information pertaining to ozone, including maps, current plans, workshop postings, and other ozone related information. This information is available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Workshop documents are available, two weeks prior to the workshops, to give the public time to review the staff report and draft version of the plan. Also available is the current 1-hour ozone adopted plan, archived workshops, adopted rules and regulations, federal regulations and Guidance documents. The web site also includes information on the federal 8-hour ozone standard and the proposed state 8-hour ozone standard as it becomes available.

The web site provides links to other government and private web sites with information such as air quality research studies (CCOS, IMS 95, SARMAP), other air districts; ARB and EPA. The web site provides links to information on the designation and classification of the San Joaquin valley and other air basins.

Through the use of the web the district is able to effectively reach many more people at very low cost. The Internet allows the Air District to notify the public, especially those that fall into the sensitive group category, when the air quality is unhealthy.

6.6 STUDY AGENCY

The District used the regular meetings of the San Joaquin Valley Study Agency Policy Committee to keep stakeholders informed of the schedule for developing the *Extreme OADP* and the regular meetings of the Technical Committee to discuss the modeling supporting the attainment demonstration in the *Extreme OADP*. On June 29, 2004, members of the Technical Committee participated in an all-day meeting on the photochemical modeling used in the *Extreme OADP*.

6.7 DRAFT EXTREME OADP

The District released the Draft *Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan* (OADP) for public review on July 30, 2004. In conjunction with releasing the plan, the District announced a series of three workshops to be held on the Draft *Extreme OADP* on August 12 and 13, 2004. The District mailed about 1200 notices to the ozone plan mailing list announcing plan availability and workshop

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dates, and also used the notice as a legal advertisement that appeared in the eight major San Joaquin Valley newspapers. District staff conducted the workshops in person in the Central Region (Fresno), and via video-teleconference links to Bakersfield and Modesto. About 27 people attended the first day of workshops (August 12, 2004) and about 20 attended the second day workshop (August 13, 2004). The August 12 workshops were held at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm, and the August 13th workshop was held at 10:00 am. The evening workshop on August 12th was a community meeting geared toward simplified presentations and discussions of the topics. The comment period for the *Draft EOADP* ended on August 27, 2004. Participants at the three workshops made over fifty verbal comments, and several other stakeholders submitted written comments. No formal written comments were received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Air Resources Board (ARB), or the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) Transportation Planning Agencies.

Major issues raised in verbal comments during the workshops and in stakeholder meetings after the workshop include the following: lack of time to review and comment on the Draft *Extreme OADP*; the need for the District to consider sub-regional modeling for this plan and especially for future ozone attainment demonstration plans; the fate of control measures in the Extreme OADP if EPA revokes the federal 1-hour ozone standard as planned on June 15, 2005; and the increasing need for the District to consider non-traditional and alternative means of emissions controls for future attainment demonstration plans. Written comments also included all of these issues, as well as the need for and means of developing an indirect source rule. Appendix H summarizes the comments and responses submitted to the District during public review of the Draft *Extreme OADP*.

6.8 PROPOSED EXTREME OADP

The Proposed *Extreme OADP* is scheduled to be considered for adoption by the District Governing Board on October 8, 2004. Notices for this hearing and for the availability of the Proposed *Extreme OADP* were published in all eight major Valley newspapers on September 4-7, 2004. The comment period on the Proposed *Extreme OADP* closes September 24, 2004. In addition, the District posted the Proposed *Extreme OADP*, public hearing notice, and related documents on its web site in time to provide a 30-day public review period before the October 8, 2004 hearing.