2024 Annual Report *to the* Community

An award-winning publication from the

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT®

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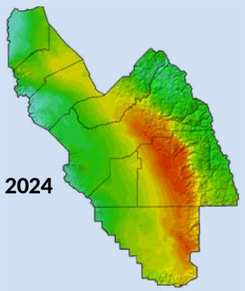

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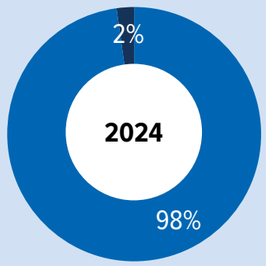

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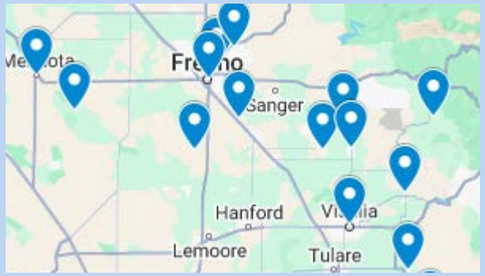

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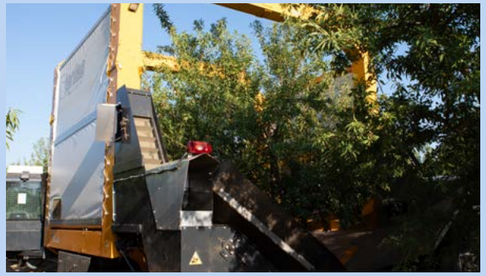

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A message from the

Air Pollution Control Officer

On behalf of the Valley Air District, we are proud to present the 2024 Annual Report to the Community, highlighting the San Joaquin Valley's continued progress in improving air quality and public health. With unwavering support from Valley residents, businesses, farmers, and agency partners, the District remains steadfast in its mission to reduce emissions, protect communities, and lead the way in innovative air quality management.

Thanks to decades of strategic investment and strong partnerships, the Valley has achieved significant clean air milestones. Since 1992, the District has adopted nearly 700 measures to reduce emissions from sources under its jurisdiction—reflecting a consistent push toward cutting-edge, feasible solutions. As a result, nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from stationary sources have dropped by an incredible 94%, helping drive down both ozone and PM2.5 pollution. Today, emissions of ozone and PM2.5 precursors are at all-time lows, delivering real health benefits across the region. Most notably, in 2024, the entire Valley reached attainment of the federal annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³—a historic achievement decades in the making.

This progress is the direct result of strong fiscal discipline, bold planning, and the dedicated involvement of Valley stakeholders. Even as California faces economic uncertainty, wildfire threats, and tightening budgets, the District continues to push forward—implementing critical air quality plans, supporting community needs, and advocating for essential state and federal resources.

Looking ahead, the District is focused on protecting recent gains and meeting the next round of federal standards. Priorities include completing maintenance plans for PM2.5, evaluating the new 2024 PM2.5 standard, and advancing adopted plans through close collaboration with CARB, U.S. EPA, and local partners. We are also committed to reducing emissions from mobile sources—one of the largest contributors to regional pollution—by strengthening public-private partnerships and advocating for funding for key programs like FARMER, Ag Burn Alternatives, and clean vehicle replacements.

Internally, the District continues to model excellence in public service through our STAR culture—Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Respect—ensuring that our mission is carried out with integrity and care. Externally, we're expanding outreach to better inform residents about air quality trends, wildfire smoke, and clean air resources.

We remain committed to listening, learning, and working with our communities to shape a healthier, more sustainable future for the San Joaquin Valley. Thank you for your partnership—we look forward to the work ahead.

SAMIR SHEIKH
Executive Director, Air Pollution Control Officer

Governing Board

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Tulare County

Vice Chair
BOBBY MACAULAY
Madera County

VITO CHIESA
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Appointed by Governor

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Merced County

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City of Avenal

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San Joaquin County

RUSTY ROBINSON
Kings County

ALEXANDER C. SHERRIFFS, M.D.
Appointed by Governor

LIZ WYNN
City of Visalia

About the District

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is a regional public health agency responsible for air quality management in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley air basin: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern.

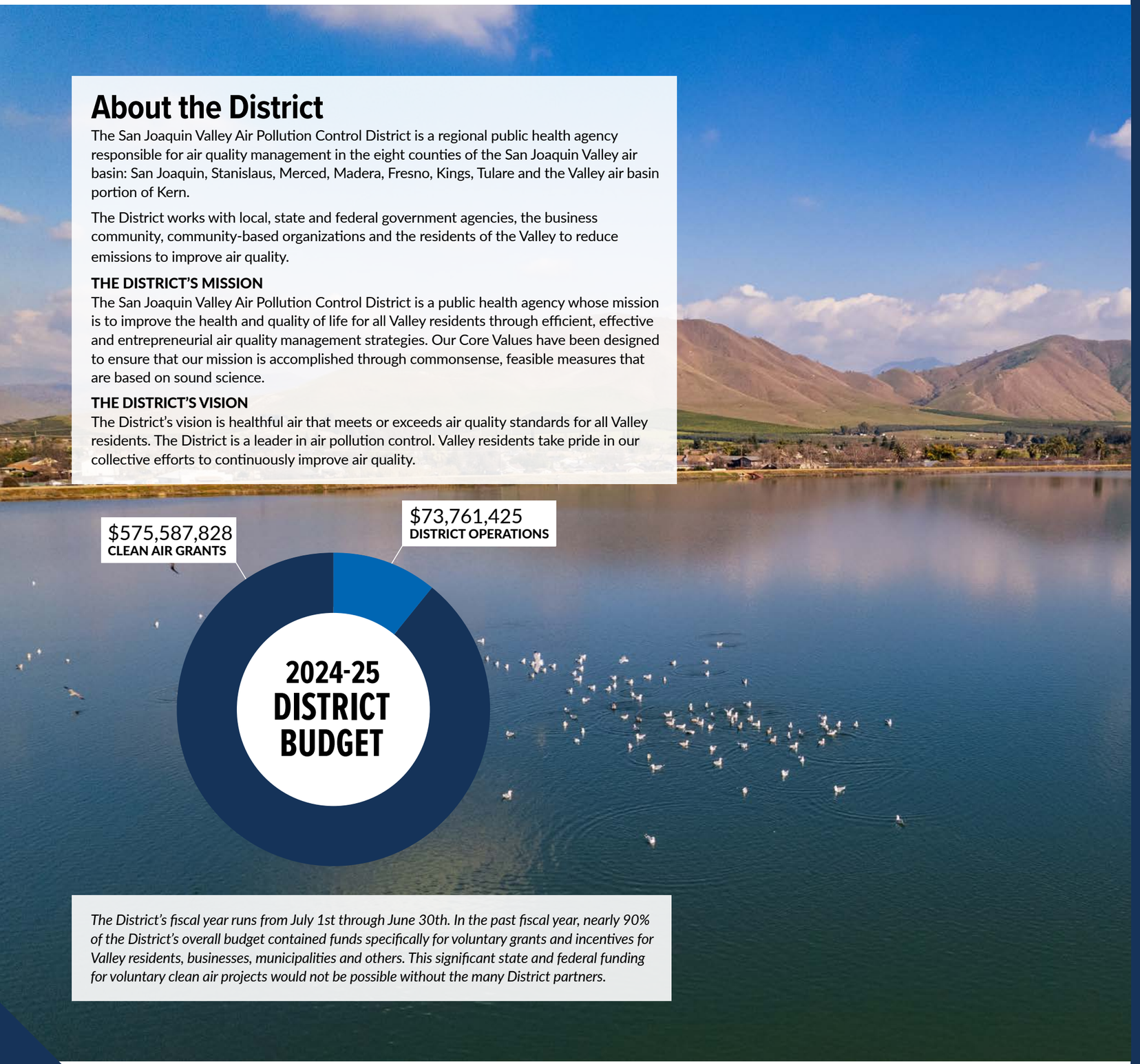
The District works with local, state and federal government agencies, the business community, community-based organizations and the residents of the Valley to reduce emissions to improve air quality.

THE DISTRICT'S MISSION

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is a public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies. Our Core Values have been designed to ensure that our mission is accomplished through commonsense, feasible measures that are based on sound science.

THE DISTRICT'S VISION

The District's vision is healthful air that meets or exceeds air quality standards for all Valley residents. The District is a leader in air pollution control. Valley residents take pride in our collective efforts to continuously improve air quality.



The District's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. In the past fiscal year, nearly 90% of the District's overall budget contained funds specifically for voluntary grants and incentives for Valley residents, businesses, municipalities and others. This significant state and federal funding for voluntary clean air projects would not be possible without the many District partners.

CORE VALUES

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The District shall continue to strive to protect the health of Valley residents through efforts to meet health-based state and federal ambient air-quality standards, based on science and prioritized where possible using health-risk reduction strategies.

ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS WHILE SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE VALLEY'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND GROW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS

District staff shall work diligently to adopt and fully implement cost-effective air pollution-control measures, provide meaningful incentives for reducing emissions, and develop creative alternatives for achieving emissions reductions.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

District staff shall work to provide excellent customer service for stakeholders in activities including: rule and plan development; permitting and emissions inventory functions; compliance activities; financial and grant-funding transactions; and responses to public complaints and inquiries.

INGENUITY AND INNOVATION

The District values innovation and ingenuity in meeting the challenges we face. Examples of this spirit of innovation include developing programs that provide new incentives for emissions reductions, and providing alternate compliance strategies that supplement traditional regulatory efforts and generate more emissions reductions than could otherwise be reasonably obtained.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

The District serves, and is ultimately accountable to, the people of the Valley for the wise and appropriate use of public resources, and for accomplishing the District's mission with integrity and honesty.

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCESSES

The District shall continue to provide meaningful opportunities for public input and be responsive to all public inquiries.

RECOGNITION OF THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The Valley's meteorology, topography and economy differ significantly from those in other jurisdictions. Although it is valuable to review and evaluate efforts of other agencies, we must consistently look for solutions that fully consider the Valley's unique needs.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The District works to continually improve its internal operations and processes, and strives to streamline District operations through optimally utilizing information technology and human resources.

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The District shall continually strive to efficiently use all resources and to minimize costs associated with District functions.

RESPECT FOR THE OPINIONS AND INTERESTS OF ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS

The District shall respect the interests and opinions of all Valley residents and fully consider these opinions, seeking collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies, agriculture, businesses, community groups and residents in carrying out the District's mission.

ROBUST PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ON VALLEY AIR QUALITY PROGRESS AND CONTINUING AIR QUALITY EFFORTS

As we move forward in achieving our mission, the District shall continue its ongoing efforts to educate the public about air quality, and the significant clean air investments and air quality progress that have been made in the Valley.

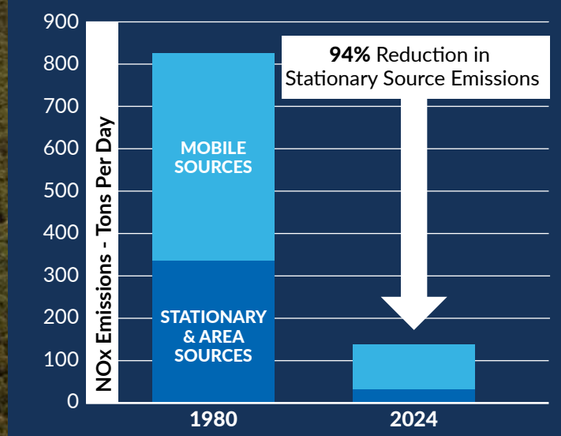
Cleaner Air, Healthier Communities

The District is dedicated to improving air quality across the San Joaquin Valley to safeguard public health. Extensive research has shown that poor air quality contributes to a range of health issues, including respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Exposure to air pollutants like particulate matter and ozone can also increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes. Additionally, emerging studies suggest potential links between air pollution and neurological conditions such as dementia.

Air pollution affects everyone, though exposure levels vary based on factors like location, time of day, and weather conditions. Major sources of pollution—such as transportation and industrial activities—have significant impacts on surrounding communities. While the Valley has seen significant progress in reducing emissions from stationary sources under District regulatory control, much work still needs to be done at the state and federal levels to address pollution from mobile sources. Unfortunately, lower-income and minority communities often face a disproportionate share of exposure to mobile source pollution especially from diesel exhaust.

To address these disparities, the District actively collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies to improve air quality in disadvantaged communities. Through collective action, the goal is to reduce pollution, minimize exposure, and enhance health outcomes for all Valley residents, ensuring a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come.

MAJOR NOx REDUCTIONS



EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

Fine Particle (PM2.5) pollution can cause:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Wheezing, coughing
- Fatigue

Fine particles can make these conditions **worse**:

- Cardiovascular and heart disease
- Asthma and COPD
- Dementia
- Neurological Disorders

Ground-level Ozone pollution can cause:

- Difficulty breathing deeply
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Wheezing, coughing
- Fatigue

Ozone can make these conditions **worse**:

- Asthma and COPD
- Emphysema

Valley Reaches Clean Air Milestone for PM2.5

A Testament to Decades of Progress

The San Joaquin Valley has made remarkable strides in improving air quality over the past several decades. A growing number of days now meet federal air quality standards across all counties, despite challenges like wildfires. Notably, for the first time, the Valley has achieved compliance with the federal annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³ for the 2022-2024 period—marking a major milestone in ongoing efforts to improve air quality. Building on this success, the District remains committed to further reducing pollution so all Valley residents breathe clean air.

SUSTAINED AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

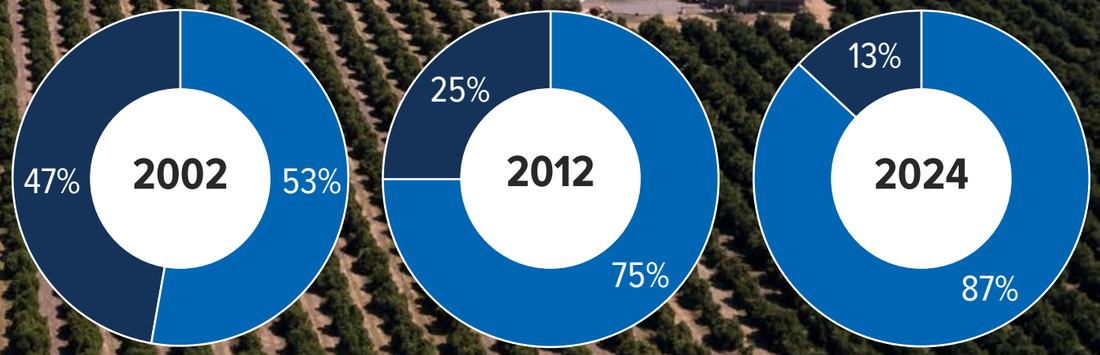
The Valley has steadily progressed toward meeting strict federal air quality standards for PM2.5 and ozone. Even with occasional setbacks from wildfires, recent analyses by the District and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) show the region is approaching attainment of additional key air quality standards. Improvements are evident across both rural and urban areas—including Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, Visalia, and Bakersfield—where air quality is significantly better than in previous years.

These gains are the result of over three decades of dedicated emission reduction efforts, supported by substantial investments from residents, businesses, agriculture, and partner agencies. Notably, the Valley has already met several key health-based federal air quality standards, including NO_2, SO_2, CO, PM10, 1-hour ozone, the 24-hour PM2.5 standard of 65 µg/m³, and now, the annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

While these improvements are significant, the Valley continues to face air quality challenges, particularly due to increasingly severe wildfire seasons. These ongoing challenges underscore the need for continued pollution reduction through strong partnerships at every level. The District is committed to working with CARB and the EPA to continue advancing innovative strategies to further cut emissions, helping the Valley meet additional federal air quality standards and ensuring cleaner air for all residents.

DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING THE HEALTH STANDARDS YEAR-ROUND



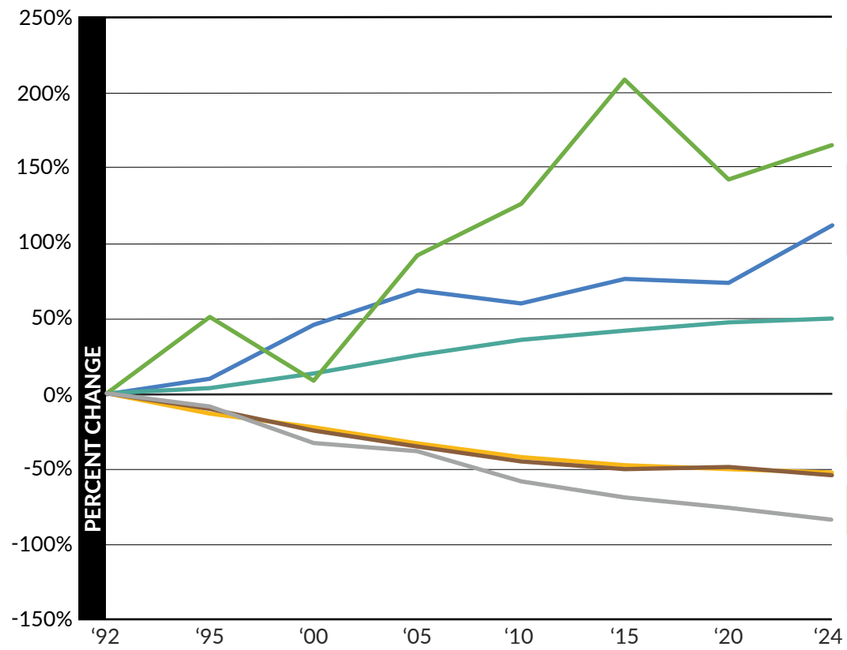
Air Quality in the Valley Continues to Improve

The Valley's ability to reduce emissions amid rapid growth is a testament to its leadership in environmental stewardship. This progress is a direct result of the collective efforts of residents, businesses, public agencies, and community partners, all working together to improve air quality through strategic investments and sustained commitment.

While the number of people living, working, and driving in the Valley has steadily increased, pollution levels have continued to decline. Today, the region meets several key federal air quality standards, including those for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2), Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), PM10, the 1-hour ozone standard, and the 24-hour PM2.5 standard of 65 µg/m³. Most notably, as of 2024, the Valley has achieved the annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³ across all areas—a milestone that reflects decades of clean air progress despite increasing demands on transportation and infrastructure.

The Valley remains committed to meeting the remaining federal standards for ozone and PM2.5, paving the way for cleaner air and healthier communities for generations to come.

AIR QUALITY IMPROVES EVEN WITH DRAMATIC GROWTH



Summer Ozone Days in Good/Moderate based on the Air Quality Index (AQI)

Growth in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Population Growth

EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

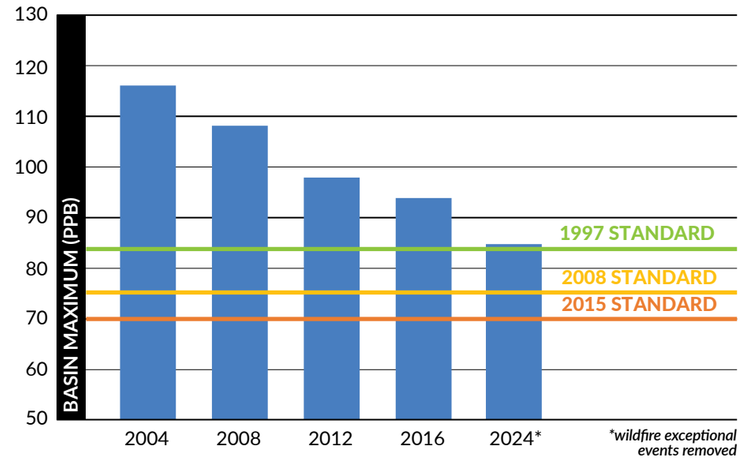
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)

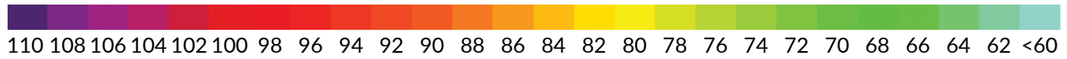
Ozone Levels Continue to Decline

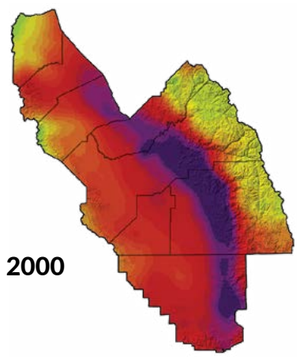
8-HR OZONE DESIGN VALUE PROGRESS

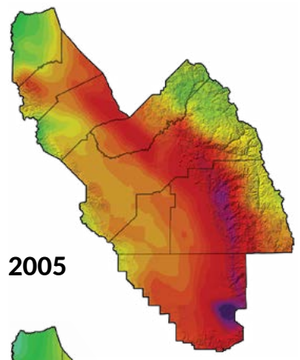


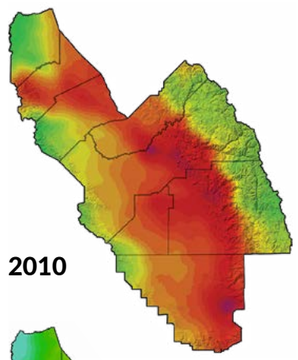
Significant progress has been made with respect to ozone concentrations. Excluding wildfire impacts, the Valley is on the verge of attaining the 8-hour standard of 84 parts per billion (ppb), while progressing towards the more stringent standards of 75 ppb and 70 ppb. The following figures depict how far the region has come in reducing peak ozone values, bringing the Valley even closer to attaining the health-based air quality standards.

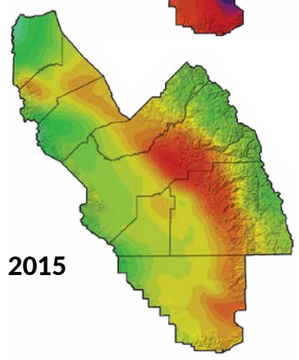
8-HOUR OZONE DESIGN VALUE (PPB)

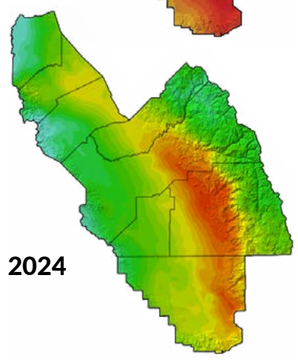



2000


2005


2010


2015

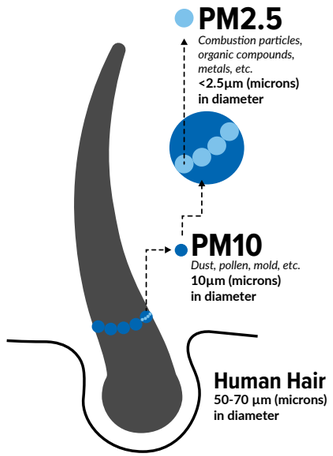

2024

From 2000 through 2024, peak ozone levels have decreased significantly. In these heat maps, purple and red colors represent higher levels of ozone, while yellow and green colors represent lower ozone concentrations. The increasing amount of yellow and green colored areas of the maps represents how ozone has improved across the region over the years.

Understanding the Complexity of

PM2.5 in the San Joaquin Valley

The composition and sources of PM2.5 in the San Joaquin Valley are highly complex. This fine particulate matter, measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter, consists of a mix of aerosols, solids, liquids, nitrates, sulfates, organic carbon, black carbon, soil particles, and trace metals. It originates from both human activities—such as vehicle emissions and industrial processes—and natural sources.



Among the various components of PM2.5, organic carbon and ammonium nitrate are the most significant contributors. Organic carbon primarily comes from sources like wood burning, cooking, and vehicle emissions. Ammonium nitrate, on the other hand, forms when ammonia reacts with NOx emissions, which are largely produced by fuel combustion in mobile and industrial operations.

Thanks to years of dedicated efforts, the District has made substantial progress in reducing both organic carbon and ammonium nitrate concentrations. This has been accomplished through a combination of regulatory measures, incentive programs, and statewide initiatives aimed at cutting emissions from wood burning, industrial sources, and vehicles. As a result, overall PM2.5 levels have declined, leading to the Valley's attainment of the 15 µg/m^3 annual PM2.5 standard in 2024—a major milestone in improving air quality and public health.

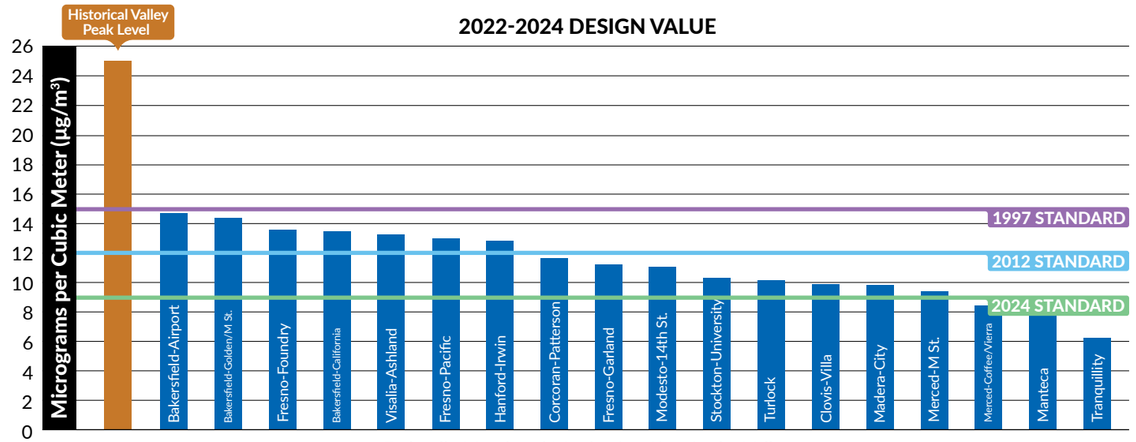
NEW CHALLENGES WITH STRICTER PM2.5 STANDARDS

In 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a revised annual PM2.5 standard, lowering the threshold from 12 µg/m^3 to 9 µg/m^3. This new, more stringent standard will require additional planning and action, including the development of a new attainment strategy that builds upon past successes.

Achieving compliance with this lower standard will necessitate significant emissions reductions, particularly from mobile sources under state and federal jurisdiction—such as heavy-duty trucks and locomotives. The District continues to advocate for stronger state and federal measures to curb emissions from these sources while actively pursuing additional funding opportunities to support local air quality improvement efforts.

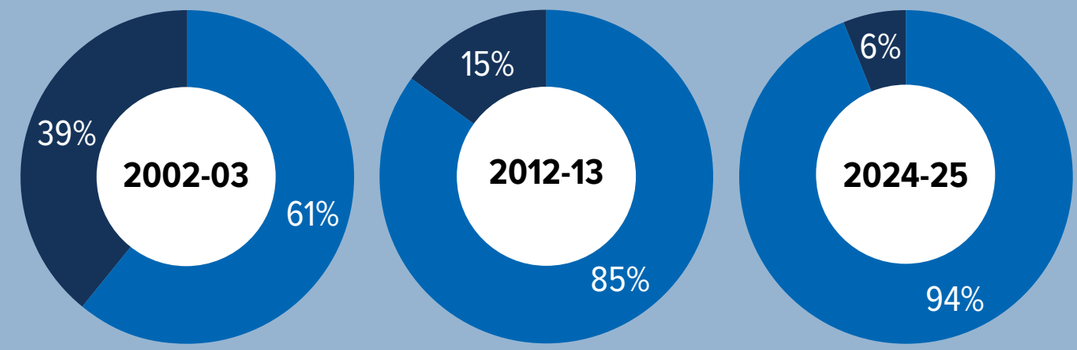
By continuing to build on past achievements and strengthening collaborative efforts, the Valley remains committed to further reducing PM2.5 pollution and ensuring cleaner air for all communities in the region.

Particulate Matter Continues to Decline

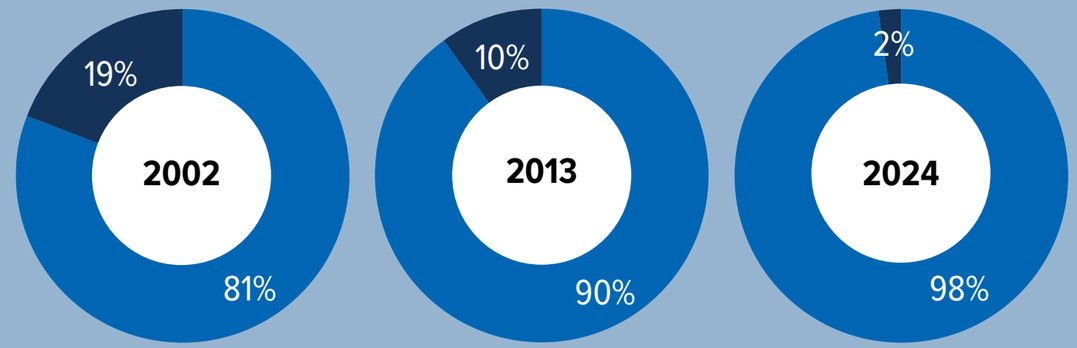


Federally Mandated Monitoring Sites in the Valley

DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING the DAILY PM2.5 STANDARD DURING WINTER MONTHS (NOV-FEB)



DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING the DAILY PM2.5 STANDARD EACH YEAR



Advancing Clean Air for the Valley

Working Toward the New PM2.5 Standard

In February 2024, the EPA strengthened the annual PM2.5 standard from 12 µg/m³ to a more health-protective 9 µg/m³. In response, CARB submitted recommendations to designate the San Joaquin Valley as nonattainment, with EPA's final designations expected by early 2026.

While meeting this tougher standard will be challenging, it also presents a key opportunity to build on the Valley's long-standing commitment to improving air quality. Once designated, the District will develop a Moderate State Implementation Plan (SIP) in coordination with CARB, potentially transitioning to a Serious classification if needed to meet the longer-term target of 2036.

To support this effort, the District is working with CARB to refine emissions inventories, model new strategies, and identify the most effective opportunities for further reductions—especially from mobile sources outside local control.

In November 2024, the District allocated $200,000 to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Study Agency to support new research. This investment will help deepen scientific understanding of local air quality challenges and inform the next generation of clean air strategies. The District and Study Agency will work with stakeholders to prioritize research topics, secure additional funding, and launch projects that guide future planning.

Though the road ahead is ambitious, the Valley has made remarkable air quality progress over the past three decades. By building on that foundation, the District is committed to continued collaboration, innovation, and investment to meet the new standard and protect community health for generations to come.

Importance of State & Federal Partnerships

In 2024, the District achieved significant success in securing state and federal funding through its legislative advocacy. By engaging at all levels of government, the District has prioritized initiatives essential for improving air quality, meeting federal clean air mandates, and protecting public health in all Valley communities.

STATE FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The District's advocacy efforts helped secure key allocations in the state's 2024-25 Budget, including:

- **$118 million** *under the state's FARMER program to replace older, high-polluting agricultural equipment*
- **$61.8 million** *through AB 617 Community Air Protection incentive funds to address air quality concerns in impacted communities*
- **$30.4 million** *in state funding for various transportation projects, supporting the replacement of older, high-polluting vehicles with electric or hybrid alternatives*
- **$20.2 million** *under the state's Carl Moyer program to replace aging heavy-duty equipment and vehicles with cleaner technology and supporting infrastructure*

FEDERAL FUNDING SUCCESS

The District also secured major federal allocations through nationwide competitive programs, including:

- **$9.4 million** *in federal funding to replace nut harvesters with low-dust alternatives*
- **$7.7 million** *in federal funding to upgrade wood-burning devices to electric heat pumps or gas alternatives*
- **$56 million** *from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program for heavy-duty charging stations along the Valley's freight network*
- **$475,000** *in federal funding for technology advancement initiatives*

While these funding successes mark a significant step forward for Valley projects, the District remains committed to advocating for further support. Ongoing priorities include expanding sustainable agriculture programs, increasing FARMER funding, investing in low-carbon clean vehicle technologies, and sustaining funding for alternatives to agricultural burning.

The District's adopted positions recognize potential impacts that changing climate conditions could have on local air quality and support greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures that provide co-benefits in reducing criteria and toxic pollutants to assist in meeting air quality public health goals. This alignment has helped guide the District's engagement with state and federal agencies in the development of GHG reduction programs that complement the District's core mission to improve air quality and protect public health. Through strong collaboration with state agencies, businesses, local governments, and community-based organizations, the San Joaquin Valley has emerged as a leader in implementing innovative clean air and low-carbon initiatives, and will continue to seek partnerships at the local, state, and federal level to support local efforts by bringing additional resources to the Valley.

Planning for a Cleaner Future

Over the years, the District and CARB have adopted numerous air quality attainment plans (State Implementation Plans, or SIPs), which serve as the primary vehicles for improving air quality in the Valley. Following the adoption of each SIP, the District diligently implements plan strategies through regulatory development, outreach, continued research, and incentive programs. Each attainment plan represents a significant milestone in the District's continued effort to improve air quality in the Valley.

Under previous attainment plans, the District has implemented generations of emissions control measures for stationary and area sources under its jurisdiction. Similarly, CARB has enacted stringent regulations for mobile sources. Together, these efforts represent the nation's toughest air pollution emissions controls. As a result, the Valley's ozone and PM2.5 precursor emissions are at historic low levels, and air quality has improved significantly, providing Valley residents with associated health benefits. In 2024, the District adopted the Ozone Contingency Measure SIP Revision and the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, which included commitments to satisfy Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements and achieve significant additional emissions reductions. Additionally, the District is currently in the process of developing maintenance plans, as well as preliminary attainment planning efforts for the 2024 PM2.5 standard of 9 µg/m³.

OZONE CONTINGENCY MEASURE SIP REVISION

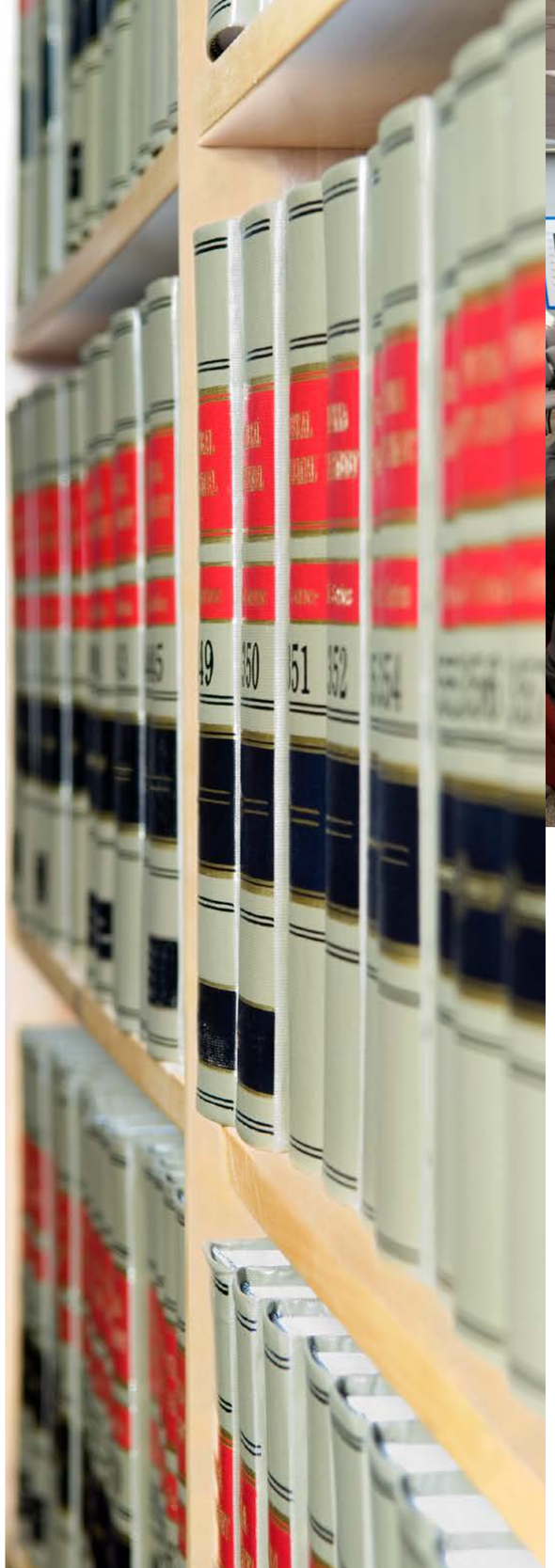
The District adopted the Ozone Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standards on April 25, 2024, to satisfy contingency measure requirements in the CAA. This plan revision included thorough analysis of contingency measure opportunities, a revised and strengthened District contingency measure strategy, with a commitment to add measures for several identified coating categories, and CARB's California Smog Check Measure.

2024 PLAN FOR THE 2012 ANNUAL PM2.5 STANDARD

The District adopted the 2024 Plan for the 2012 Annual PM2.5 Standard on June 20, 2024, to satisfy applicable CAA requirements, including final modeling analysis, attainment strategy and emission reduction commitments, reasonable further progress/quantitative milestones, and contingency measures. This Plan demonstrates expeditious attainment of the 2012 PM2.5 standard by 2030.

MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE 1997 PM2.5 STANDARDS

Since 2020, the District has been in attainment of the 1997 24-hour PM2.5 standard of 65 µg/m³ and most recently achieved attainment of the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³ in 2024. The District is currently preparing a clean data determination to send for EPA submission, which will demonstrate attainment through air monitoring data for a three-year period, from 2022 to 2024. Subsequently, the District is in the process of preparing a maintenance plan and redesignation request, to demonstrate continued attainment of both 1997 PM2.5 standards through the District's implemented control strategy.



SECOND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE 1987 PM10 STANDARD

In December 2008, EPA redesignated the Valley to attainment of the federal PM10 standard. Pursuant to the federal CAA (see section 175A(b)), the District is in the process of preparing a second PM10 maintenance plan to provide for continued attainment of the standard.

PLAN FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL PM2.5 STANDARD (9 µg/m³)

On February 7, 2024, EPA strengthened the primary annual standard for PM2.5 by lowering the level from 12 µg/m³ to 9 µg/m³, based on the latest health science. Emissions reductions from mobile sources under federal and state jurisdiction will be critical to ensure attainment of this standard, specifically with respect to emissions under federal jurisdiction including heavy-duty trucks and locomotives. The District is working closely with CARB and EPA on future actions required for this standard.

2024 EMISSION REDUCTIONS

	PLAN COMMITMENTS	REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED	PERFORMANCE
NOx	11.36 *tons per day*	22.31 *tons per day*	96% *above target*
VOC	40.46 *tons per day*	50.38 *tons per day*	25% *above target*
SOx	0.83 *tons per day*	5.19 *tons per day*	525% *above target*
PM2.5	8.28 *tons per day*	16.85 *tons per day of PM equivalent*	103.5% *above target including precursors*

Improving Air Quality

Through Clean Air Measures

The District has demonstrated leadership in developing and implementing groundbreaking regulatory strategies to reduce emissions. For over 30 years, the District has developed and implemented numerous regulatory strategies and emissions control measures for stationary and area sources under its regulatory jurisdiction. These control measures represent the nation's toughest air pollution regulations and have greatly contributed to reducing ozone and particulate matter concentrations in the Valley. Innovative strategies, such as those for municipal development projects, residential wood burning, glass manufacturing, and agricultural burning, have set benchmarks for California and the nation. Despite the significant progress under these regulations which have been greatly aided by the efforts and financial investments of Valley businesses and residents, the District continues to look for areas of improvement and adopt and modify rules to achieve further needed emissions reductions to advance the Valley's progress toward clean air.

In 2024, the District made progress in evaluating and adopting regulatory measures per the commitments in the 2018 PM2.5 Plan, 2022 Ozone Plan, and pursuant to other requirements for the following sources of emissions:

RULE 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces) The District amended Rule 4905 on March 21, 2024, to extend the emissions fee option for manufactured home units without changing the fee structure, allowing more time for technology development and incentivizing faster deployment of compliant units. Reporting and payment requirements were also clarified for units sold during the six-month sell-through period.

RULE 2520 (Federally Mandated Operating Permits) The District amended Rule 2520 on April 16, 2024, to align with EPA actions, including the removal of emergency affirmative defense provisions from Title V regulations. The amendment removed Section 13.4 (Emergency Provisions) and revised definitions for consistency with federal regulations.

Looking Ahead

The District has also initiated the rule development and public process for several major regulatory development projects that have been ongoing in 2024 and 2025. The District invites the public and strongly encourages their participation in rulemaking projects. All interested parties may sign up for email notifications of regulatory development updates on the District's website at valleyair.org/sign-up. Updates to the following rules are forthcoming:

RULE 4550 (Conservation Management Practices) Rule 4550 was the first rule in the nation to reduce fugitive particulate emissions from agricultural operations through the required reduction in the number of passes through a field by agricultural equipment and through the implementation of other Conservation Management Practices (CMPs). Per commitments in the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, the District is currently undergoing a robust rule evaluation process in collaboration with industry stakeholders, USDA-NRCS, and other agencies to identify opportunities to reduce emissions from fallowed land, as well as other potential enhancements to the CMP program to reduce dust from agricultural operations.

RULES 4601 *(Architectural Coatings)*, 4603 *(Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products, Plastic Parts and Products, and Pleasure Crafts)*, 4604 *(Can and Coil Coating Operations)*, 4653 *(Adhesives and Sealants)*, & 4663 *(Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal)* Rules 4601, 4603, 4604, 4653, and 4663 reduce VOC emissions from various sources of coatings and solvent usage. These rules contain various VOC limits that restrict the VOC content of coatings or solvents, and also limit VOC emissions through requiring certain application equipment and clean up/disposal methods. The District is currently undergoing a rule development process to implement contingency measures to lower VOC limits within each of these five rules, which fulfills the District's commitment in the Ozone Contingency Measure SIP Revision.

RULE 4901 (Wood-Burning Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Heaters) The purpose of Rule 4901 is to limit particulate matter emissions from wood-burning fireplaces, wood-burning heaters, and outdoor wood-burning devices. Per commitments in the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, the District is currently undergoing a rule development process to evaluate the benefits and further strengthen the District's residential wood smoke reduction strategy by extending the wood-burning season through the end of March.

RULE 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling) The purpose of Rule 4692 is to limit emissions from commercial charbroiling operations in the Valley. The District is currently analyzing opportunities to implement an incentive based control strategy through the District's Restaurant Charbroiler Technology Partnership Program. District staff are also leading working group meetings with numerous air districts throughout the state to evaluate emission reduction opportunities and examine barriers to controlling emissions from commercial charbroiling operations.

RECENT & UPCOMING STATIONARY SOURCE REGULATIONS

RULE	STATUS
Rule 4905	*Adopted by Board March 2024*
Rule 2520	*Adopted by Board June 2024*
Rule 4550	*Rule development ongoing*
Rule 4901	*Rule development ongoing*
Rules 4601, 4603, 4604, 4653, and 4663	*Rule development ongoing*
Rule 4692	*Rule development ongoing*

Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy
Improves Winter Air Quality

The District's Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Strategy is a comprehensive approach to improving winter air quality. It incorporates wood-burning curtailments under District Rule 4901 (Wood-Burning Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Heaters), an incentive grant program for replacing old fireplaces and woodstoves, and extensive public education and outreach efforts. This strategy effectively reduces wood smoke emissions in Valley neighborhoods during the peak PM2.5 season (November through February), significantly advancing the District's goals of meeting federal air quality standards and protecting public health.

Rule 4901 established the nation's strictest wood-burning curtailment thresholds, as recognized by the EPA in its February 2020 evaluation of Best Available Control Measures (BACM) and Most Stringent Measure (MSM) for the 2006 PM2.5 standards. In May 2023, the District further amended Rule 4901 to introduce a contingency provision addressing the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 standards. This amendment ensures progressively stricter curtailments if the EPA determines that the Valley has not met a required contingency element under the Clean Air Act.

Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out Program

To support the transition to cleaner heating options, the District offers financial incentives through the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-Out Program. This initiative helps Valley residents replace outdated, high-emission fireplaces and woodstoves with cleaner natural gas devices or electric heat pumps. Since its inception, the program has provided over $69 million in funding, facilitating the replacement of more than 31,000 wood-burning devices across the Valley.

Eligible participants can receive up to $1,000 for a new certified wood-burning device (in areas without access to piped-in natural gas), $4,150 for a new natural gas device, and $5,000 for an electric heat pump. The higher incentive levels are available for residents in designated "Hot Spot" areas—Madera, Fresno, and the Valley Air Basin portion of Kern County—where wood-burning curtailments are more stringent under Rule 4901.

To ensure accessibility, the program offers an additional $1,500 incentive for low-income residents in all non "Hot Spot" areas of the San Joaquin Valley. These residents can apply the incentive at the point of purchase, reducing upfront costs when purchasing from participating retailers. This structure makes it easier for low-income households to switch to cleaner heating alternatives while maintaining warmth during winter months.

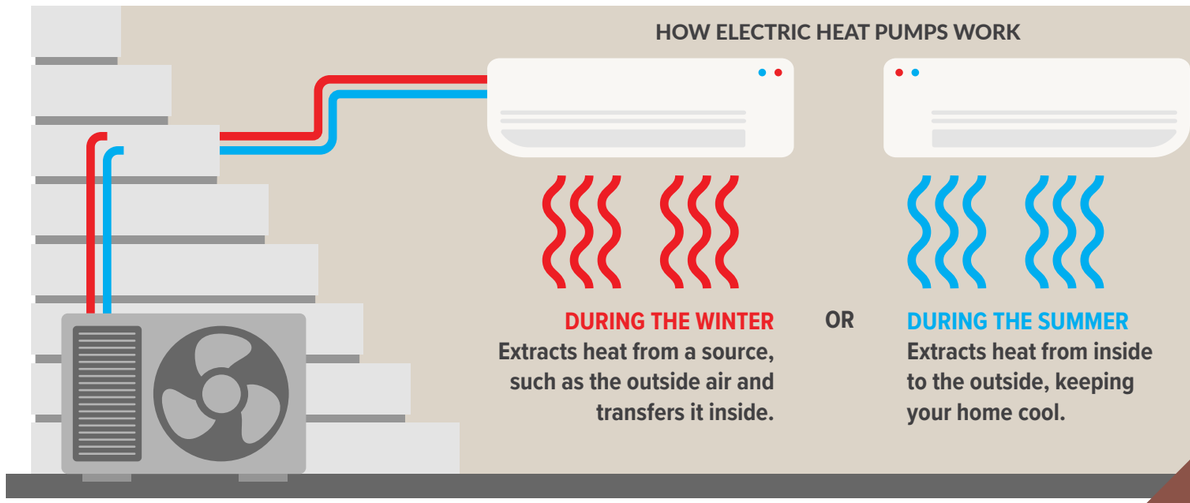
Residents who prefer to eliminate their wood-burning fireplace or device without replacing it can opt for decommissioning. Under this option, they can receive up to $750 to cover eligible costs associated with permanently disabling the unit. This applies to open-hearth fireplaces, inserts, and wood-burning stoves.

Funding for Electric Heat Pumps

Recognizing the efficiency and environmental benefits of electric heating, the District continues to collaborate with local hearth retailers and HVAC companies to promote electric heat pumps as a viable alternative to wood-burning devices. Through the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-Out Program, residents can receive up to $5,000 to install an electric heat pump in their home.

Electric heat pumps transfer heat rather than generating it through combustion, making them a cleaner and more sustainable heating solution. They are highly efficient, capable of producing up to three times more heat energy than the electricity they consume. Additionally, heat pumps provide year-round comfort by offering both heating and cooling functions.

By incentivizing the installation of electric heat pumps, the District encourages the adoption of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly heating solutions. This initiative benefits both individual homeowners and the broader community by reducing particulate matter emissions and improving overall air quality in the Valley.



Protecting Valley Communities from Wildfire Smoke

When wildfire smoke impacts the San Joaquin Valley, the District works swiftly to provide critical updates on air quality conditions and recommends protective measures for residents. To ensure widespread awareness, the District issues air quality advisories, collaborates with the National Weather Service, engages with local schools and public health officials, and shares real-time information through media channels and social media.

THE GROWING WILDFIRE CHALLENGE

Over the past decade, California and the western U.S. have experienced an alarming increase in large wildfires. Factors such as excessive fuel buildup from decades of fire suppression, widespread drought-driven tree mortality, and climate change—leading to higher temperatures and drier conditions—have extended and intensified wildfire seasons. The sheer scale of these wildfires has significantly affected air quality in the Valley, underscoring the urgency of the District's efforts to mitigate smoke impacts.

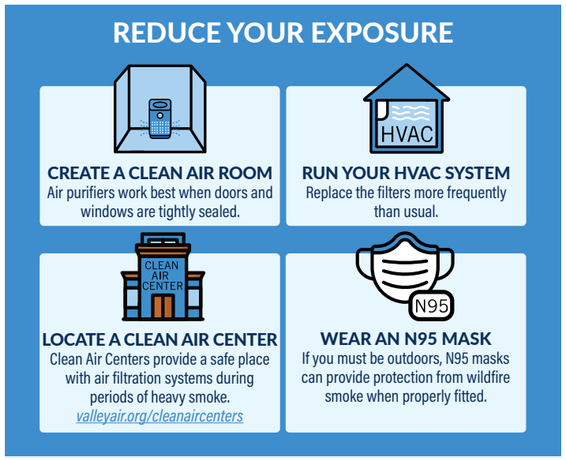
REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS THROUGH COLLABORATION

A key component of the District's Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy is working with partners to reduce fuel loads in foothill and mountain areas. Residents in these communities play a crucial role in wildfire preparedness by safely removing flammable vegetation around homes and structures. To support this effort, the District and CAL FIRE established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2023 to streamline the burn permit process through an online portal. This "one-stop shop" eliminates the need for an in-person visit to a fire station, making it easier for residents to obtain permits. Since its launch, the online system has been widely embraced, with over 1,000 permits issued in 2024 alone.

Additionally, the District collaborates with land managers to approve well-planned prescribed burning projects in mountain areas, helping to manage vegetation and reduce wildfire risks. When wildfires do occur, the District works with public land agencies to strategically deploy portable air quality monitors in affected areas, ensuring communities receive accurate and timely information about smoke conditions.

COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH & PREPAREDNESS

Despite the growing challenges posed by wildfires, the District remains steadfast in its mission to protect public health. By providing timely air quality updates, supporting wildfire prevention efforts, and ensuring residents have the resources to safeguard their well-being, the District continues to take proactive steps in addressing the air quality impacts of wildfire smoke across the Valley.



Are You Wildfire Smoke Ready?

As wildfires continue to become more frequent and intense, it's crucial to prepare for potential smoke impacts. Wildfire smoke can cause serious health problems, especially for children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions like asthma. Proper preparation can help minimize the risks and ensure that you and your family stay safe during wildfire season.

STAY INFORMED

Check local air quality at valleyair.org/wildfires, AirNow.gov or weather apps that provide air quality updates.

Follow local health advisories and emergency alerts.

CREATE A CLEAN AIR ROOM IN YOUR HOME

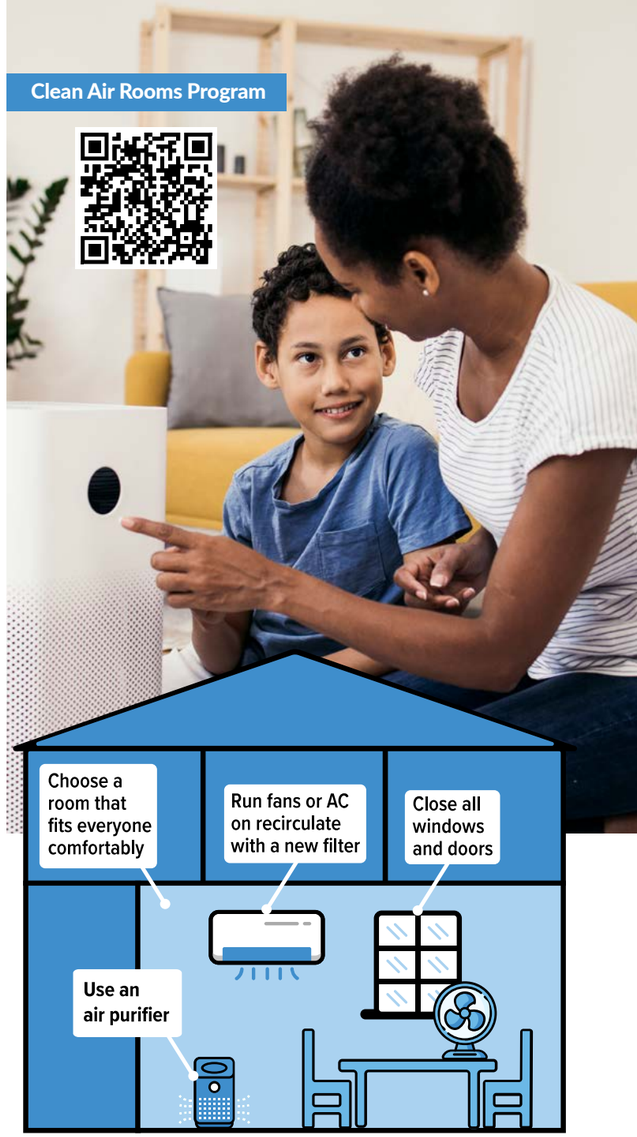
- Keep windows and doors closed to prevent smoke from entering your home.
- Use an air purifier with a HEPA filter to help remove fine particles from the air.
- Change your air filter more often than normal.
- If eligible, take advantage of the District's Clean Air Rooms incentive program at valleyair.org/roompurifier.
- If you have an HVAC system, set it to recirculate air and use a high-efficiency filter, if the system allows.
- Avoid burning candles, using fireplaces, or frying food, as these activities can worsen indoor air quality.

REDUCE OUTDOOR EXPOSURE

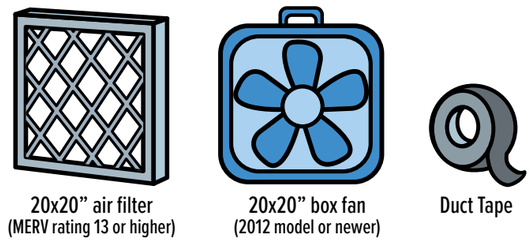
- Limit time spent outdoors, especially during periods of high smoke concentration.
- Avoid strenuous activities such as jogging or yard work when air quality is poor.
- If you must go outside, wear an N95 mask and try to stay in shaded or less smoky areas.
- Identify safe places to go that have cleaner air, such as the District's Clean Air Centers or public buildings with air filtration systems.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH

- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and help your body flush out toxins.
- Monitor symptoms such as coughing, difficulty breathing, chest pain, or dizziness, and seek medical help if necessary.
- Use saline nasal spray or eye drops to reduce irritation from smoke exposure.
- If you have respiratory conditions, consult with your doctor about additional protective measures.
- If appropriate, wear an N95 mask when going outside and ensure that masks fit snugly and cover both the nose and mouth to provide proper protection.



HOW TO CREATE A DIY FILTER



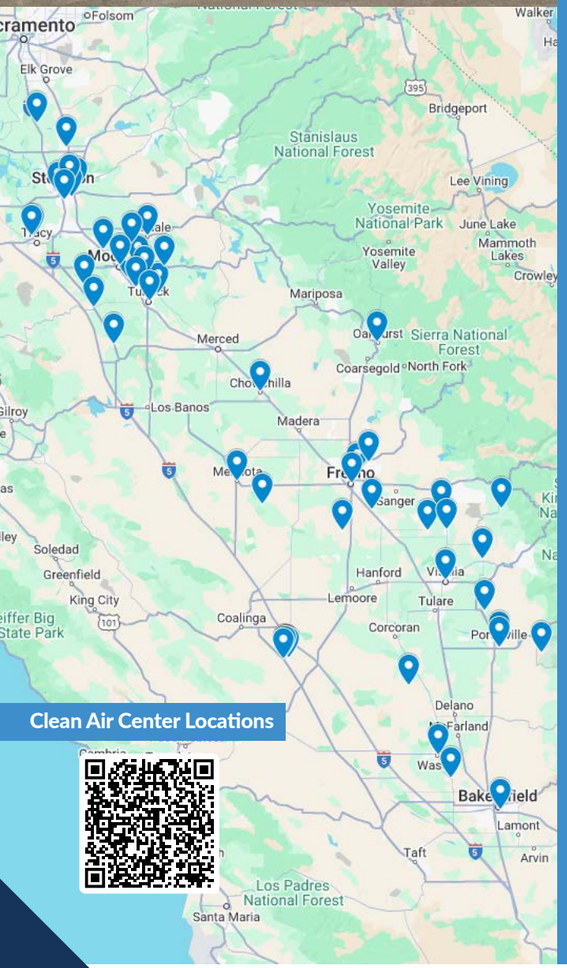
20x20" air filter (MERV rating 13 or higher)

20x20" box fan (2012 model or newer)

Duct Tape

ASSEMBLY

Duct tape the air filter to the back of the box fan. (Make sure the filter's air flow arrows are facing toward the fan). Replace filters as needed.



Clean Air Center Locations

Clean Air Centers A Resource for
Vulnerable Populations

Recognizing the severe impacts of wildfire smoke on vulnerable populations, California passed Assembly Bill 836 (Wicks, Chapter 393, Statutes of 2019), which led to the creation of the Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Program. This initiative, overseen by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), allocated $750,000 in funding to the District to upgrade ventilation systems and provide high-efficiency portable air cleaners.

The Clean Air Centers Program has established a network of publicly accessible locations, including schools, community centers, senior centers, sports facilities, and libraries, where individuals can seek refuge from wildfire smoke. The District, in collaboration with local partners, has launched the program in over 50 locations across the southern, central, and northern regions of the Valley.

To assist residents, the District has developed an interactive Clean Air Center map that displays center locations, available services, and other critical information. This tool, created in partnership with CARB and local air pollution control districts, ensures that communities throughout California can easily access clean air centers during wildfire smoke events.

THE CLEAN AIR ROOMS GRANT PROGRAM

In response to increasingly severe wildfire smoke impacts, the District's Governing Board authorized the launch of a $250,000 Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program in 2023. The success of this initiative led to the expansion of a Valley-wide Clean Air Rooms residential air filtration program in 2024, with over $2.6 million in funding from the EPA and CARB for filtration devices.

This program provides off-the-shelf residential air filtration devices to residents in underserved communities throughout the Valley. The District actively promotes the use of these devices through air quality alerts, media interviews, and social media, encouraging the creation of "clean air rooms" within homes. A designated clean air room, such as a bedroom, ensures a safe indoor space with cleaner air during smoke events.

By collaborating with local organizations, the District has distributed over 6,500 residential filtration devices to the most vulnerable populations in 2024, free of charge. Building on the success of the pilot and Valley-wide programs, the District has also developed and administers a residential air filtration initiative within the AB 617 communities of South-Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton. Each of these communities has received $1,000,000 in funding to support ongoing efforts to improve indoor air quality for residents affected by wildfire smoke.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Wildfire smoke can be dangerous, but by taking these precautions, you can protect yourself and your loved ones. Being prepared and staying informed are key to minimizing health risks during wildfire season. Start preparing now so that you're ready when smoke is impacting the Valley.

District Wins National Recognition for
Wildfire Prevention & Response Efforts

At the 2024 fall meeting of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA), the association announced the 2024 Best Practices in Air Pollution Control, recognizing exemplary air agency programs in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and the San Joaquin Valley. Designated annually, AAPCA's Best Practices in Air Pollution Control highlight innovative programs, groundbreaking technology, and meritorious operations in the field of air pollution control. Of particular interest are activities that are directly transferrable to the operation of an air pollution control agency.

"The designations this year included inspiring work from state and local air agencies," said AAPCA's Secretary-Treasurer and AAPCA Best Practices Committee Co-Chair Hether Krause with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. *"Each program demonstrates ways air agencies are protecting air quality and public health, especially when faced with complex air quality management challenges such as wildfires."*

Through extensive community engagement efforts across the Valley, the District has heard directly from residents, community health workers, community-based organizations, medical advocates, the Governing Board, the Environmental Justice Advisory Group, and the Citizens Advisory Committee about the importance of providing access to clean air during unhealthy air quality episodes such as during wildfires. Toward that end, the District has developed a Comprehensive Wildfire Prevention and Smoke Impact Response Program which is multifaceted, and includes a mix of incentives, permitting, and outreach strategies. Through the Best Practice designation, AAPCA recognized the program and its four main components:

- The residential Clean Air Rooms grant program which provides free residential air filtration units and replacement HEPA filters directly to low-income and underserved community households.
- The Clean Air Centers program which provides incentives for the development and deployment of a network of publicly accessible facilities equipped with high-efficiency air filtration systems.
- The streamlined permitting process for Hazard Reduction Burning—developed through a partnership between the District and CAL FIRE—makes it easier for the public to remove fire-prone vegetation and reduce the risk of wildfire spreading to homes and structures.
- Comprehensive digital outreach shared through websites, social media and press releases to help residents understand how to check their air quality and protect themselves from smoke impacts.

Partnering with Valley Farmers to

Improve Air Quality in the San Joaquin Valley

Agriculture plays a vital role in the San Joaquin Valley's economy, culture, and way of life. At the same time, the Valley's air quality challenges require collaboration across all sectors to reduce emissions and improve public health. Farmers have long been key partners in these efforts, working alongside the District to adopt cleaner technologies and implement more sustainable practices. Through incentive programs and cooperative initiatives, the District is committed to helping the agricultural industry transition to cleaner equipment and techniques that reduce emissions while maintaining productivity. Two successful programs leading the way in these efforts are the Low-Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program and the Tractor Replacement Program.

REDUCING NUT HARVESTER EMISSIONS THROUGH INNOVATION

Over the past decade, nut crop acreage has significantly increased in the San Joaquin Valley. Given the visible particulate emissions associated with nut harvesting, the agricultural community has been working to develop and adopt low-dust harvesting technologies that reduce emissions. Studies show that low-dust harvesting equipment can reduce localized particulate matter (PM) emissions by more than 40%, with some technologies achieving reductions of nearly 80% compared to traditional harvesting methods. These advancements not only improve air quality but also maintain crop yields while offering potential labor and energy savings.

To support the adoption of these technologies, the District offers the Low-Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program, which provides funding for the replacement of old conventional harvesters with new, low-dust certified models. Since 2019, the program has helped replace over 270 conventional harvesters with cleaner alternatives, allocating more than $23 million to Valley nut farmers. The program covers up to 75% of the cost of a new low-dust harvester, with a maximum of $250,000 per unit. Self-propelled and pull-behind harvesters are eligible for the maximum incentive, while shaker/sweeper combination units have no maximum cap on incentives.

REPLACING HIGH-POLLUTING TRACTORS WITH CLEANER ALTERNATIVES

Emissions from daily agricultural operations can contribute significantly to air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. While the District does not have regulatory authority over mobile agricultural equipment, it has played a critical role in reducing emissions by facilitating the replacement of older, high-polluting tractors and equipment through the Tractor Replacement Program.

This program provides financial incentives to Valley farmers to replace outdated, high-emission off-road agricultural tractors and equipment with cleaner alternatives. Since its launch in 2009, the District has allocated more than $950 million to replace over 14,000 older, high-polluting pieces of equipment with cleaner options. In 2024 alone, the District helped replace more than 1,400 old units, distributing over $147 million to Valley residents.

Through this program, farmers can receive substantial financial support based on their operational size. Small, medium, and large agricultural operations are eligible for incentives covering up to 80%, 70%, and 60% of the total equipment costs, respectively. With the rapid advancement of off-road equipment technology—especially zero-emission agricultural equipment—the District has modified the program to further promote these cleaner alternatives. Now, all applicants, regardless of operation size, can receive up to 85% of the equipment cost when transitioning to zero-emission machinery.

COLLABORATING FOR A CLEANER FUTURE

The San Joaquin Valley's air quality goals cannot be achieved without strong partnerships with the agricultural community. By investing in innovative programs that support cleaner farming practices, the District is helping to create a healthier environment while ensuring that the region's vital agricultural industry remains strong. Through continued collaboration, technological advancements, and financial support, the District and Valley farmers are working together to build a more sustainable future for all.

Phasing Out Open Agricultural Burning: A Milestone for the San Joaquin Valley

Home to the world's most productive farmland, the San Joaquin Valley cultivates over 250 crop types across more than 4.5 million acres. In collaboration with Valley agriculture and CARB, the District has successfully implemented a comprehensive strategy to nearly eliminate agricultural open burning by the January 1, 2025 phase-out deadline. This effort builds on nearly two decades of regulatory action, beginning with the adoption of Senate Bill 705 (Florez) and District Rule 4103 (Open Burning) in 2005.

DECADES OF PROGRESS IN REDUCING AGRICULTURAL BURNING

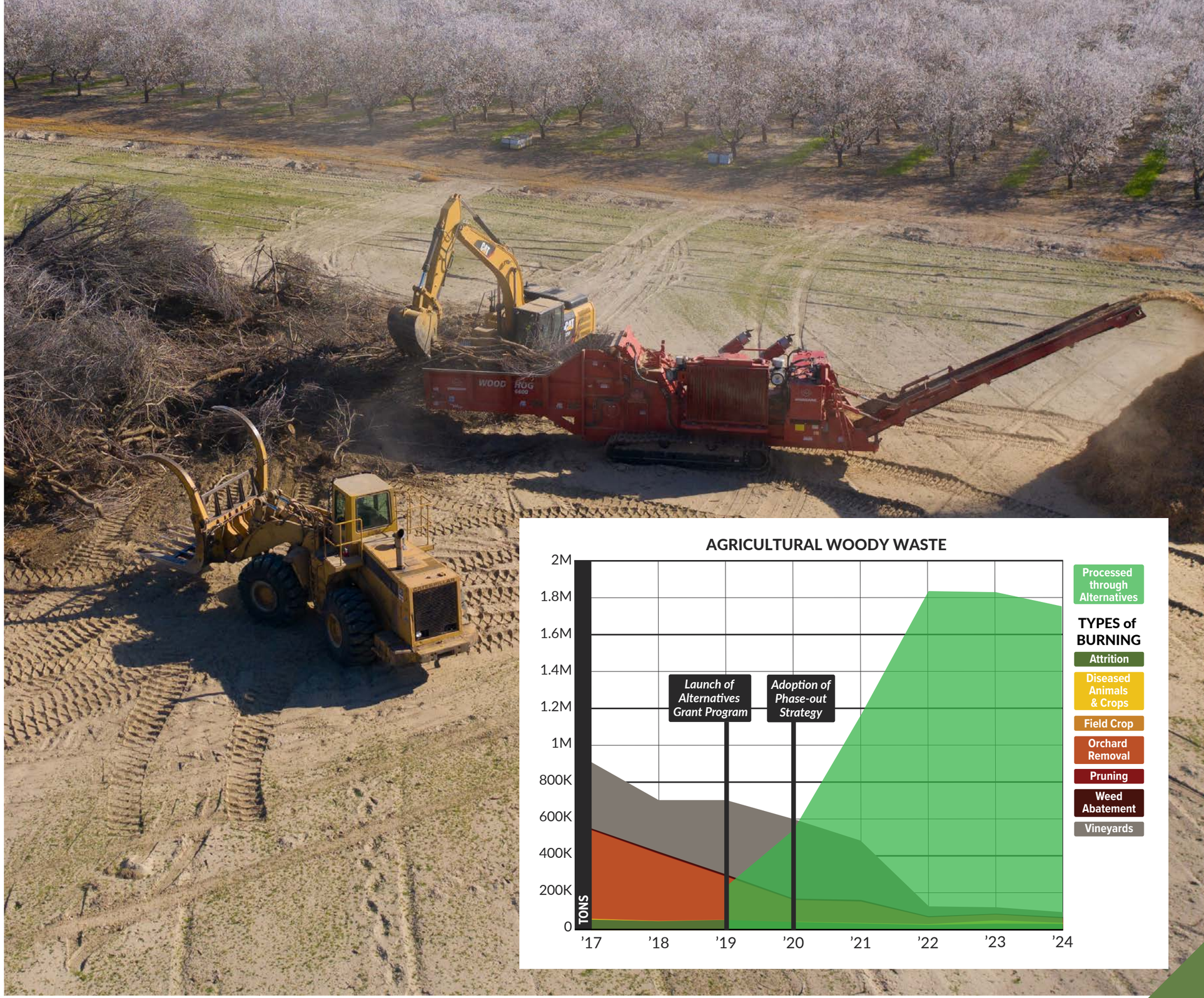
Through continuous partnership with the agricultural community, the Valley has made remarkable progress in phasing out open burning. A wide range of materials—including field crops, prunings, orchards, vineyards, and raisin trays—have been successfully transitioned away from burning. Ongoing research with industry partners and agencies continues to explore cleaner, sustainable alternatives such as beneficial reuse, composting, and biochar production.

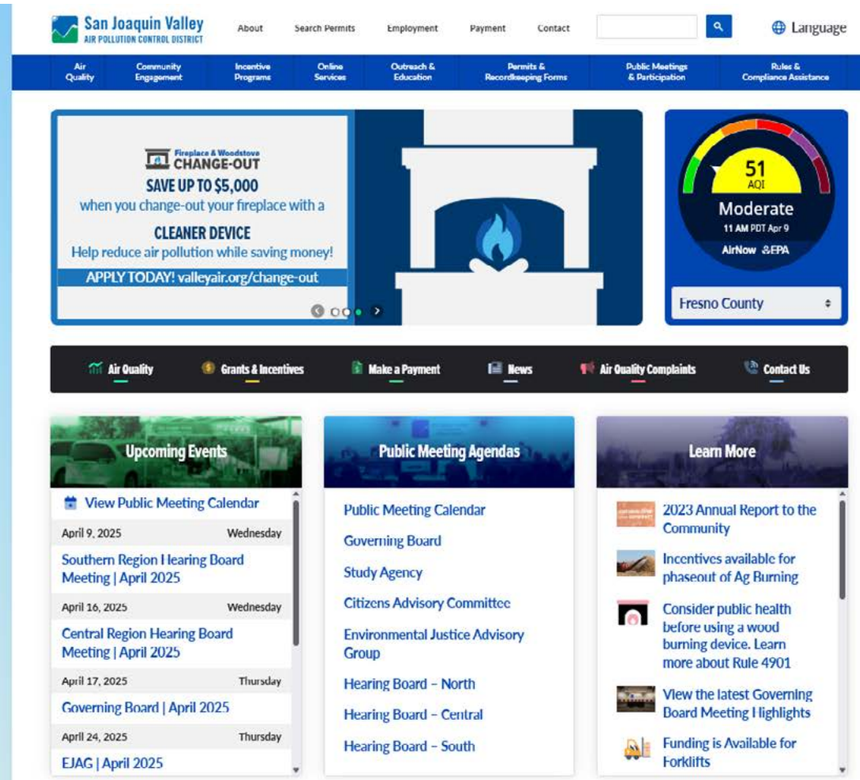
SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION WITH INCENTIVES

To assist growers in adopting cleaner practices, the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program provides financial incentives to commercial agricultural operations to chip orchard and vineyard removal material instead of burning it. The program offers flexible options for managing chipped material, including soil incorporation, land application on grower properties or other agricultural land, and beneficial reuse alternatives such as mulch, composting, and dust suppression near roadways. Incentive amounts range from $300 to $1,700 per acre of agricultural material removed, depending on the chosen alternative.

A LASTING IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

The response to the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program has been overwhelmingly positive, with over $197 million awarded to support projects on more than 277,000 acres—diverting 7.5 million tons of ag material from open burning. As the phase-out takes full effect, the Valley is leading the way in adopting sustainable practices and improving air quality across the region. Moving forward, ongoing funding is essential to maintain this momentum, expand access for smaller growers, and ensure the continued success of the Valley's transition away from open agricultural burning.





District Unveils Redesigned Website to
Better Serve the Public

As a vital public health agency serving millions across the Valley, the District's website plays a crucial role in connecting residents, businesses, and stakeholders to essential air quality information, regulatory resources, and clean air programs. Whether checking air quality during wildfire events, submitting permit applications, or applying for grant incentives, the website is a central hub for community engagement.

Originally launched in 2006, the previous version was built on technology that required heavy maintenance which limited content updates. In response, and in alignment with the Board's core value of continuous improvement, the District has completed a comprehensive website redesign.

The recently launched new site is powered by a modern content management system, allowing staff across departments to update content quickly and efficiently. This ensures timely access to critical information, especially during episodes of poor air quality. Key enhancements include improved navigation, a robust search function, mobile responsiveness, and a cleaner, user-friendly design.

Accessibility has also been prioritized, with features like keyboard navigation, screen reader compatibility, and improved language translation tools. These updates ensure access for all Valley residents, regardless of ability or language preference.

District staff have been trained to manage their content areas, and efforts are underway to migrate existing web applications. Moving forward, the District remains committed to refining the platform to meet evolving community needs and deliver a seamless digital experience.

Working with
Valley Communities

The District has always prioritized meaningful community engagement in shaping its air quality strategies. In 2007, the Governing Board adopted an Environmental Justice Strategy to guide these efforts. In recent years, the Board has further advanced community involvement through the implementation of the state-mandated AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. As part of this work, the District collaborates closely with its Environmental Justice Advisory Group to explore new ways to fulfill its mission, and with AB 617 Community Steering Committees to develop and carry out community-driven clean air strategies across the Valley.

With the Governing Board-established priority of strong community engagement, the District has committed to working closely with Valley residents and stakeholders to help communities by forging new partnerships with businesses, and identifying and leveraging clean air opportunities. Ensuring Valley residents have access to all District programs and resources is crucial to the District's mission of improving public health in the Valley. This past year, the District has prioritized outreach efforts in communities most in need by building partnerships with schools and community-based organizations, attending community events, and ensuring that engagement materials and presentations are available in multiple languages.

In-person Events Build Opportunities

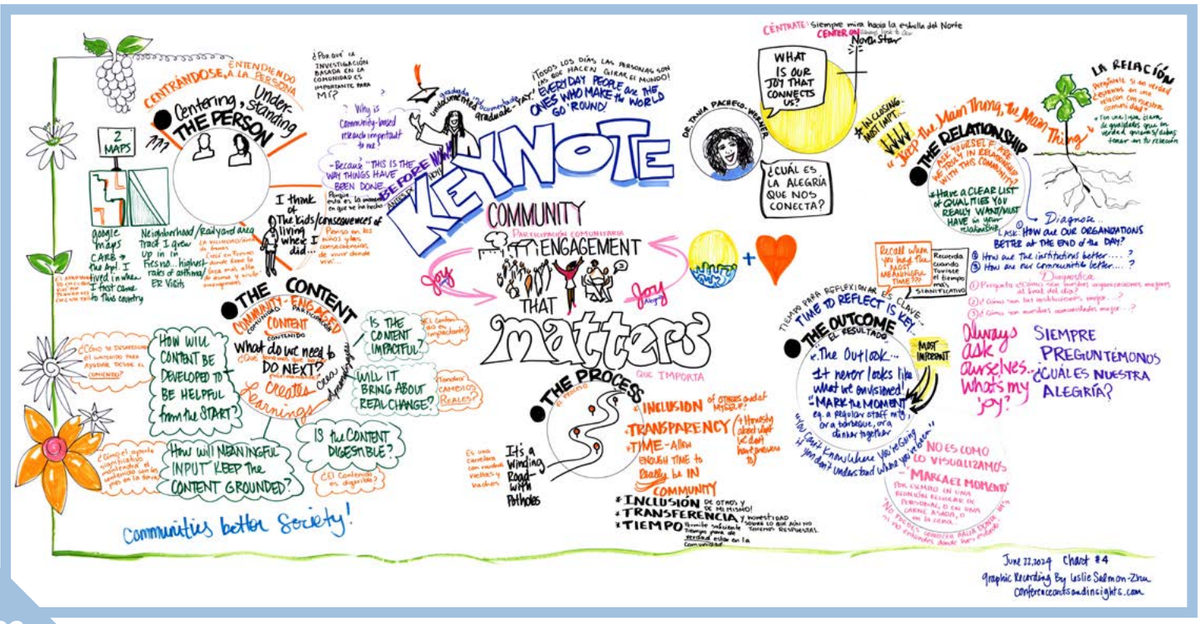
In-person events are valuable opportunities to strengthen community relationships and provide space for members to collaborate on important decisions. Each year the District meets in person with communities throughout the Valley, including the four selected AB 617 communities. In April 2024, the District hosted a windy but wonderful in-person community meeting at the Port of Stockton's Lindley House. Prior to the meeting, the Port of Stockton invited the community members on a tour of the inland Port. Located by the Delta of the San Joaquin River, the tour highlighted the Port's history, wildlife, general operations, recent infrastructure improvements, and showcased their state-of-the-art cargo handling equipment upgrades. It was a great opportunity for community members to learn and see firsthand the work the Port is doing in collaboration with the District to improve air quality in the Stockton community. Two community co-hosts helped design and lead the meeting with 56 community members, including residents, local businesses, community-based organizations, and partner agencies. The meeting focused on advancing three important emission reduction commitments: bike lanes, passenger vehicle repair and replacement, and community outreach efforts, through soliciting feedback and recommendations. The District will continue working with the community to incorporate these important in-person opportunities in the Stockton community.

First Community Clean Air Day A Success

In June 2024, the District gathered with more than 100 San Joaquin Valley residents and stakeholders to celebrate their collective effort to achieve cleaner air and meaningful community engagement. The Community Clean Air Day event highlighted the significance of the multi-agency collaboration that has been achieved through the District's Community Air Protection Program, while celebrating the progress that has been made towards improving air quality in Valley communities.

"We've built good momentum through our Community Air Protection Program and fostered strong relationships between businesses, community-based organizations and residents to accomplish clean air projects in the San Joaquin Valley. Community Clean Air Day allowed us to celebrate the work we have invested in improving air quality and the quality of life in underserved communities," said Stephanie Ng, Director of Community Strategies and Resources for the Valley Air District.

The event was developed in collaboration with community members and stakeholders and aims to unite communities across the Valley and emphasize the importance of building strong relationships with residents, businesses, community groups, and agency partners. Participants heard from community experts, fellow residents from across the Valley and enjoyed the talents of a graphic recorder who created a mural in real-time during the event that reflected the conversations, decisions and themes that arose from the day. Event participants left the event energized with a newfound knowledge of air quality improvements, resources and goals to pursue and collaborate on their respective communities.



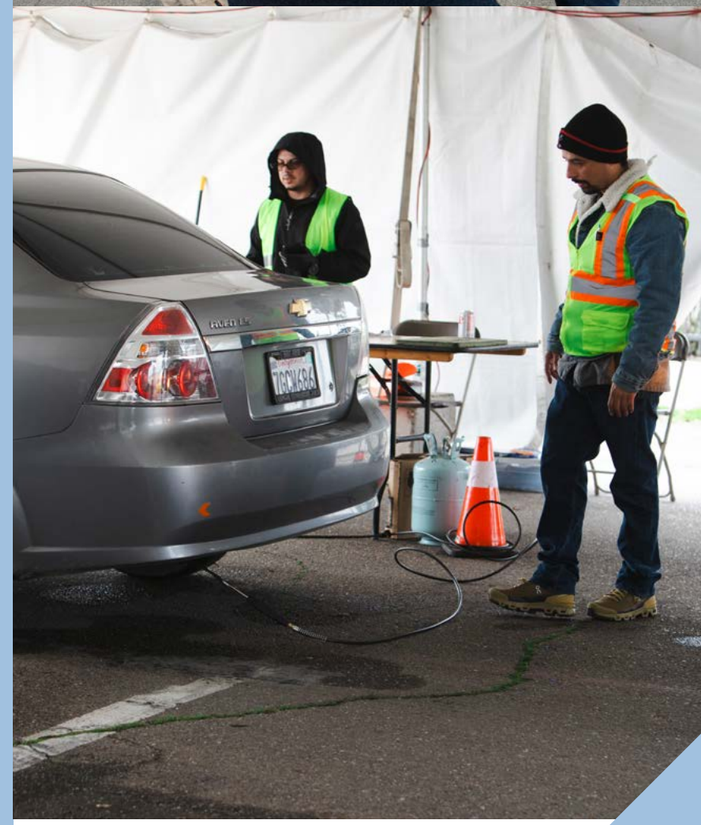
Electric Lawn Mowers & Vehicle Repairs Come Together

In November 2024, the District hosted its first-ever combined Tune-In Tune-Up vehicle repair event and Lawn Mower Trade-in event in the City of Shafter. Over 300 Shafter residents replaced their old, polluting gas-powered lawn mowers with a free, zero-emission electric STIHL lawn mower. In addition, over 200 residents participated in the Tune-In Tune-Up vehicle repair event, where their vehicle got a free emissions test and qualifying residents received a repair voucher up to $500 for emissions-related repairs. This event was made possible through the work of the Shafter community. At the March in-person community meeting, the Community Steering Committee voted to reallocate funding to support the residential lawn and garden measure to add more units and hold a second lawn mower trade-in event in Shafter. Gas-powered yard care equipment presents a significant source of localized air pollution in Valley neighborhoods. These small engines have no emission controls and pollute substantially more than newer passenger vehicles. Statistically, one gas lawn mower produces the equivalent emissions of 12 late-model cars operating for the same amount of time. This is just one example of the great work being done in partnership with Valley communities.

EPA Grant Supports Ambassador Program

The District's Community Air Program Ambassador (CAPA) Program is an environmental justice initiative funded through an EPA grant awarded to the District in 2023. The goal of the program is to empower partner organizations to work with Valley communities impacted by air pollution by training their staff to serve as liaisons between residents, the District, and other stakeholders and help connect these communities to clean air resources including providing free air filtration devices to qualifying residents. The four CAPA project partners, Binational of Central California, Fresno Street Saints, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), and Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, have worked closely with the District since April 2024.

CAPA
Community Air Program Ambassador



Enhancing Community Air Quality Monitoring Across the Valley

The District remains committed to understanding and addressing air quality concerns in communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to maintaining a robust, federally referenced, and mandated air monitoring network that tracks long-term air quality progress, the District also utilizes a variety of temporary and mobile monitoring equipment. These tools provide real-time data and help assess emissions from potential sources impacting local communities.

As part of these efforts, the District has expanded its community air monitoring initiatives in recent years. This includes operating a refinery community air monitoring network, with an additional system expected to become operational in the coming year. This network, along with fenceline air monitoring data from the refineries, offers residents real-time, localized air quality information to stay informed about conditions in their area.

Through these targeted monitoring efforts, the District can rapidly respond to community concerns by deploying equipment in areas experiencing air quality issues or in neighborhoods where heightened attention is needed. All community-level air monitoring data is publicly accessible online, ensuring transparency and empowering residents with the information they need.

For more details, visit www.community.valleyair.org.

Community Air Protection Program

Since 2018, the Community Air Protection Program incentives funding has been invested in underserved communities across the Valley to achieve over 16,000 tons of emissions reductions.

TOTAL FUNDING EXPENDED

$275,345,465

EXAMPLES OF FUNDING

1,125 TRACTORS REPLACED

137 SCHOOL BUSES REPLACED

1,954 LAWN MOWERS REPLACED

31 SCHOOLS UPGRADED WITH AIR FILTRATION

4,913 HOMES RECEIVED FREE AIR PURIFIERS

TOTAL REDUCTIONS

16,499 TONS

8,697 tons of NOx

3,945 tons of PM2.5

139 tons of PM10

3,718 tons of VOCs

Healthy Air Living Schools

Promoting youth well-being and creating a healthy learning environment are key priorities for the District. The award-winning Healthy Air Living Schools program takes a comprehensive approach to supporting educators with the information they need to make informed decisions about outdoor activities for students.

Healthy Air Living Schools trains school staff and informs parents about air quality tools like the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) and EPA's AirNow, which provide hourly data and outdoor activity recommendations to protect student health.

To engage directly with Valley schools, including public, private, and charter schools, especially in impacted communities, the District shares various educational materials like how to protect yourself when air quality is poor, why it's important to avoid vehicle idling, how to prepare for wildfire impacts, and what grants are available for cleaner equipment. This outreach includes parent presentations and discussions during drop-off and pick-up times, fostering conversations about air quality and providing information about District resources available to them. During the fall 2024 back-to-school outreach, the District conducted a brief survey with 256 responses, and approximately 45 percent reported getting air quality information from a weather app or online.

To address the issue of vehicle idling pollution at schools, the District supplies "No Idling" signs in English and Spanish, which urge parents to turn off their engines during drop-offs and pickups, thus minimizing emissions. Additionally, through a quarterly electronic newsletter, the District stays connected to school personnel by sharing timely air quality information, current school district incentives, and free educational resources.

Each year, the District hosts the Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest, inviting K-12 artists from across the Valley to showcase their creativity while promoting clean-air awareness. The bilingual, full-color wall calendar features inspiring air-quality messages illustrated by 14 talented students, encouraging eco-friendly habits. By fostering youth involvement and spreading awareness through art, the District continues to inspire future generations to help them learn about air quality and the importance of improving air quality in their community.

The District's suite of educational tools includes a popular K-6 activity kit that includes an activity booklet, stickers, crayons and bookmarker/ruler. Teachers and parents can request and use the activity kit to introduce air quality concepts and vocabulary in fun ways to young students. To make learning about air quality fun, we offer hands-on activities like a pollution matching game and a classroom activity box to explore particulate matter. To further educate our partner schools, District staff is often in classrooms or at assemblies speaking directly to students and school personnel about air quality.

Through this combination of strategies, the District emphasizes awareness and responsibility among students, educators, and parents alike, ensuring a healthier and safer learning environment for all.

Over $7.5 Billion in Public/Private Funding

Leads to Tremendous Improvements

The District is committed to improving air quality through both stringent regulations and one of the nation's most effective emissions reduction incentive programs. These initiatives accelerate the adoption of cleaner technologies, particularly for mobile sources under state and federal jurisdiction, which account for over 85% of NOx emissions in the Valley. By offering targeted grant funding, the District helps achieve cost-effective emissions reductions that surpass regulatory requirements, benefiting communities throughout the region.

Since its inception, the District has invested over $2.9 billion, complemented by $4.6 billion in private matching funds, leading to the reduction of 289,908 tons of emissions. This investment has significantly contributed to air quality improvements and continues to drive progress.

The District's incentive programs support a wide range of clean air projects, including:

- Replacing agricultural tractors and equipment
- Repowering off-road machinery
- Providing alternatives to agricultural open burning
- Retrofitting and replacing heavy-duty trucks and school buses
- Offering incentives for lawn mower replacements and fireplace changeouts
- Supporting locomotive replacements and alternative-fuel light-duty vehicles
- Developing bicycle infrastructure projects such as bike paths
- Assisting with light-duty vehicle repairs and high-emitting vehicle replacements
- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure, including EV charging stations

These programs have played a crucial role in achieving emissions reductions that exceed local and state requirements. As a result, they have contributed to the Valley's continued air quality improvements. Moving forward, the District is working to ensure adequate state and federal funding will continue to come to the Valley as it is a vital component to future efforts to reduce pollution and protect public health.

$78,567,300
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS
239 CHARGERS & TRUCKS

$54,135,900
AG BURN ALTERNATIVES
1,481 PROJECTS

$147,054,600
AG EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENTS
1,449 PROJECTS

$45,835,749
CLEAN VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE
463 PROJECTS

$7,906,800
CLEAN-BURNING DEVICES
2,124 PROJECTS

$7,373,100
PUBLIC BENEFIT PROJECTS
395 FLEET VEHICLES

$9,127,600
HEAVY-DUTY REPLACEMENTS
65 TRUCKS

Over $1.04 BILLION in CLEAN AIR Investments in 2024

$515 MILLION in District Funding Matched with $520 MILLION in Applicant Funding

$50,358,800
REPLACEMENTS, REPAIRS & REBATES
25,140 VEHICLES

$76,611,400
SCHOOL, TRANSIT & SHUTTLE BUSES
194 BUSES

$6,856,200
ZERO-EMISSION AG UTVS
508 UTVs

$3,775,200
ZERO-EMISSION LAWN EQUIPMENT
4,223 PIECES

Graphic is showing highlights of various grant programs

EMISSION REDUCTIONS

FINE PARTICULATE MATTER	NITROGEN OXIDES	VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS
⬇ 7,229 TONS	⬇ 8,626 TONS	⬇ 6,183 TONS

Clean Air Equipment

Showcase Demonstrates Success of Grant Programs

In November, the District and local leaders hosted the Clean Air Equipment Showcase in downtown Visalia. The event demonstrated the air quality benefits of the District's strong grant programs designed to replace older, high-polluting equipment and improve air quality.

In the San Joaquin Valley, strong collaboration is providing significant reductions in air pollution, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases through public and private partnerships to deploy the latest and cleanest technologies. These clean air efforts are supported by a range of funding sources, including local District funds, California Climate Investments, the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program, other state funding, and federal programs such as the Diesel Emission Reduction Act and Targeted Airshed Grants. Moving forward, it is critical that the state and federal governments continue to invest in cost-effective clean air grant partnership programs, such as the FARMER Program, to ensure continued clean air and public health progress in the Valley and throughout the state.

District officials, local elected leaders and Valley business representatives gathered with the public to showcase Valley partnerships and innovations, and viewed over a dozen pieces of technology-advancing equipment that are available to Valley businesses and residents under the District's grant programs. Incentive-based strategies remain one of the most cost-effective and timely approaches to improving air quality, protecting public health, and advancing shared air quality and climate goals.

"Through these investments and partnerships, the Valley has demonstrated leadership in clean air innovation that is serving as a national model," stated Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/ Air Pollution Control Officer for the District. *"The District appreciates the Governor, State Legislature, and Federal government recognizing the public health benefits that result from these clean air investments."*

"Transitioning older, high-polluting equipment is key to helping the Valley meet clean air goals, and these grant programs allow Valley businesses to upgrade their equipment in an efficient and effective way," stated Stanislaus County Supervisor and Air District Governing Board Member Vito Chiesa. *"We must ensure that our local businesses continue to have opportunities to receive grant funding to replace their equipment and practices with effective, cleaner options."*

These District incentive programs provide funding to Valley businesses and residents, matched with applicant funding, to voluntarily replace their older, high-polluting equipment with new, much cleaner equipment.

District Provides Clean

Vehicle Infrastructure & Heavy-Duty Truck Incentives

Reducing emissions from mobile sources is essential for the San Joaquin Valley to meet federal air quality standards. Heavy-duty trucks, which play a vital role in transporting goods across the state and nation, are the largest contributors of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (PM) in the region. While emissions from these vehicles are primarily regulated at the state and federal levels, voluntary incentive programs are crucial in accelerating the adoption of cleaner technologies and achieving necessary air quality improvements.

Over the past decade, the District's Truck Incentive Programs have successfully repowered, retrofitted, or replaced more than 3,900 heavy-duty trucks with cleaner alternatives. Currently, the Truck Replacement Program prioritizes funding for zero- and near-zero-emission equipment to further accelerate the transition to the cleanest available technologies. Eligible vehicles, including diesel-powered yard trucks and Class 4–8 trucks, may receive up to $410,000 in funding. Incentives vary based on fleet size, project cost-effectiveness, and the price of new equipment.

To support the adoption of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles and the growing number of zero-emission passenger vehicles, the District offers incentives for building and expanding clean air infrastructure through the Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure and Charge Up! Programs.

As zero- and near-zero emission vehicle technology has advanced, the need for fueling and charging infrastructure has grown. To support these vehicles, including school buses, trucks, forklifts, and other heavy-duty equipment, a network of fueling and charging stations is essential. The Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program offers incentives for installing and upgrading hydrogen fueling and battery charging stations. Both public and private entities are eligible, with school bus projects potentially receiving up to 100% funding.

The District's Charge Up! program helps address the increasing number of electric vehicles in the region by funding charging infrastructure for public agencies, businesses, and multi-unit dwellings. The program offers up to $6,000 for Level 2 chargers and up to $25,000 for Level 3/ DC fast chargers. Its goal is to expand the Valley's charging network and reduce "range anxiety" for electric vehicle owners. In 2024, the District awarded over $2.3 million in incentives for installing Level 2 and Level 3 chargers. This program supports CARB's regulation mandating that by 2035, 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California are zero-emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Success of the

Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Grant Program

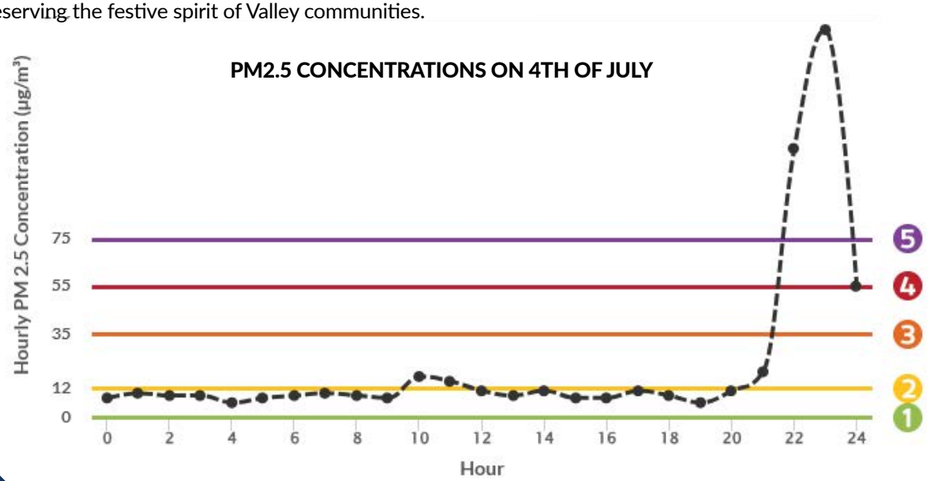
Fireworks pollution significantly impacts air quality in the Valley during holidays like the 4th of July and New Year's Eve. These effects are especially noticeable in neighborhoods where street-level fireworks, including illegal fireworks that pose public safety risks, are commonly used for celebrations. Additionally, adverse meteorological conditions, such as stagnant air flow and poor dispersion, can intensify the accumulation of particulate matter and toxic pollutants from firework emissions, further degrading air quality.

To address these concerns, the District launched the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program in February 2024, with an initial $250,000 in funding. This initiative aimed to reduce the reliance on traditional fireworks by encouraging the integration of drone light shows and other approved alternatives at large-scale public events. The program sought to mitigate residential firework use and its associated negative impacts on air quality and public health.

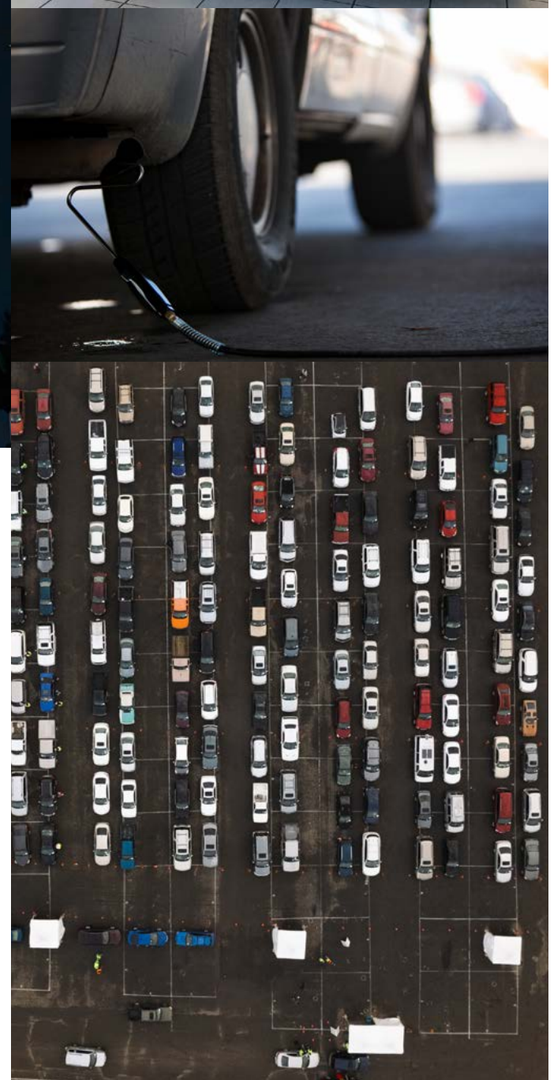
The program garnered widespread interest, with funding requests quickly surpassing the original $250,000 allocation. In response to the overwhelming demand, the District's Governing Board approved an additional $600,000 in March 2024, bringing the total program funding to $850,000. Through this initiative, the District funded 24 celebratory events, including 4th of July festivities, high school graduations, county fairs, rodeos, community gatherings, and sporting events, providing a total of $808,000 in support for cleaner alternatives to fireworks.

Feedback from program participants was overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating the feasibility and appeal of alternative display technologies. Encouraged by the program's success and the enthusiastic reception from event organizers and attendees, the District's Governing Board approved an additional $250,000 in November 2024 to continue the program into 2025.

By promoting innovative and environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional fireworks, the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Grant Program is playing a key role in improving air quality and public safety while preserving the festive spirit of Valley communities.



Hour	µg/m³
12 AM	8
1 AM	10
2 AM	9
3 AM	9
4 AM	6
5 AM	8
6 AM	9
7 AM	10
8 AM	9
9 AM	8
10 AM	17
11 AM	15
12 PM	11
1 PM	9
2 PM	11
3 PM	8
4 PM	8
5 PM	11
6 PM	9
7 PM	6
8 PM	11
9 PM	19
10 PM	113
11 PM	163
12 AM	55



Expanding Access to

Cleaner Vehicles for Low-Income Residents

For nearly a decade, the District has led the way in passenger vehicle replacement programs, prioritizing low-income residents and underserved communities while setting a model for similar initiatives across the state. Through the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Replace Program, Valley residents can trade in older, high-emission vehicles for newer, cleaner models.

Since 2015, the District has secured over $106 million in state funding from the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program and Clean Cars for All to support this effort. These funds are combined to offer incentives ranging from $9,500 to $12,000, depending on income level, residence in an underserved community (as defined by the state of California), and the type of replacement vehicle purchased. The highest incentives are available to applicants with incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty level who reside in an underserved community and choose the cleanest vehicle options, such as battery-electric or other zero-emission models.

Participants may also stack additional state and local utility rebates where eligible, maximizing financial assistance for cleaner vehicle purchases. To date, the District has successfully replaced over 8,100 high-polluting vehicles with newer, cleaner, and more fuel-efficient alternatives.

Helping Valley Residents Reduce Vehicle Emissions Through Repairs

The District's Tune In Tune Up Vehicle Repair Program provides Valley residents with an opportunity to lower vehicle emissions through necessary repairs. Designed to assist low-income residents, the program has seen high participation and has become a model for similar initiatives across the state.

The program supports vehicle owners who fail initial smog screenings by offering vouchers of up to $850 for emissions-related repairs, smog checks, and diagnostics. Residents can participate in two ways: they can schedule an appointment with a participating smog shop through Valley Clean Air Now, the District's program partner; or they can attend one of the weekend events held throughout the Valley. Regardless of the method, vehicles that fail emissions tests receive vouchers for necessary repairs.

The program's effectiveness has been recognized by UCLA's Luskin Center for Innovation, which highlighted it as a model for reaching low-income and underserved communities. A 2021 report from the Luskin Center found that 95% of underserved communities in the District have participated in the program—significantly higher than participation rates in similar programs within the South Coast (72%) and Bay Area (68%) regions.

Over the past year, the program has successfully facilitated 15,803 vehicle repairs through direct participation and an additional 3,965 repairs through weekend events, helping thousands of Valley residents keep their vehicles running cleaner and more efficiently.

Helping Commercial Landscapers with
Electric, Zero-Emission Equipment

The District's Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) grant program supports landscape maintenance professionals in transitioning from gas or diesel-powered equipment to cleaner, electric alternatives. Backed by over $6 million in state Carl Moyer Program funding from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), this initiative helps replace commercial-grade lawn and garden equipment with zero-emission options throughout the Valley.

The program is available to commercial landscape maintenance professionals, school districts, cities, counties, special districts, and other businesses or commercial entities willing to switch to electric equipment. Since its launch in May 2023, the program has awarded nearly $4.7 million to replace over 1,600 pieces of outdated landscaping equipment.

Small businesses and public agencies may qualify for up to 100% of the cost of new equipment, while large businesses may receive up to 85%, with a 15% minimum cost-share requirement. Participants can receive up to $15,000 for ride-on mowers, $1,500 for walk-behind mowers, $1,400 for leaf blowers and vacuums, and $700 for edgers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, pole saws, and brushcutters. There is no cap on the total funding a participant can receive.

Gas-powered landscaping equipment is a major source of localized air pollution in Valley neighborhoods. These small engines lack emission controls and produce significantly more pollution than modern passenger vehicles. To illustrate the impact, running a commercial gas mower for one hour emits as much pollution as driving a car approximately 300 miles—the distance from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. This grant program provides landscape maintenance professionals with financial support to make the switch to cleaner, zero-emission electric equipment, reducing air pollution and improving air quality in Valley communities.

Helping Residents with
Air Friendly & Affordable Lawn Care Tools

The District is helping residents transition to cleaner, more efficient lawn care by offering rebates for electric lawn care equipment. Residents can receive up to $50 back on the purchase of electric lawn care tools by simply saving their receipt and completing an easy online rebate application. For those replacing an old gas-powered lawn mower, the District offers up to $250 back when the old mower is scrapped.

Gas-powered yard equipment is a major contributor to localized air pollution in Valley neighborhoods. These small engines lack emission controls and produce significantly more pollution than modern passenger vehicles. By making the switch to electric, residents can help reduce harmful emissions and improve air quality while also saving money on maintenance and fuel costs.

OPTION 1: REPLACING OLD LAWN MOWER

Purchasing a new electric lawn mower and destroying an old gas-powered mower at participating dismantler.

Purchase Price	Rebate Amount
$200 or Less	Up to $100
$201 to $350	$150
$350 or more	$250

**Applicant will be responsible for a minimum of 50% of the purchase price for mowers priced $200 or less. Limit one rebate per address for every two consecutive years.*

OPTION 2: SIMPLY PURCHASING

Purchasing new lawn care equipment and not destroying old equipment

Eligible Equipment	Purchase Price	Rebate Amount
Lawn Mower, Edger, Trimmer, Chainsaw and Pole Saw	$100 or Less	Up to $25
	More than $100	$50

**Blowers are not eligible. Applicants are responsible for a minimum of 50% of the purchase price. Limit one rebate per equipment type per address for every one year.*

Emission Reduction Funds for
School, Transit and Shuttle Buses

The Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust is a nationwide initiative that allocated $423 million to California to address the excess nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions caused by VW's use of illegal emissions defeat devices in its diesel vehicles. This funding supports the deployment of advanced technology vehicles and equipment, helping accelerate the zero-emission transformation of heavy-duty fleets. More than 50% of the total funds are expected to benefit disadvantaged or low-income communities.

In October 2022, the Zero-Emission Transit, School, and Shuttle Bus Program launched its second round of funding to replace older, high-polluting buses with battery-electric or fuel-cell buses. Originally launched in 2019, the program provides two rounds of funding, each offering $65 million.

Through the VW Mitigation Trust, over 160 zero-emission school buses are being deployed across California, including 34 buses in the Valley. The program is still accepting applications for transit and shuttle buses, with over 240 zero-emission transit and shuttle buses expected to be deployed statewide, including 21 buses in the Valley.

The District also has a separate Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement Incentive Program that offers financial incentives to replace older diesel school buses with zero-emission buses in disadvantaged and low-income communities within the District. Eligible applicants include public school districts, Joint Power Authorities (JPAs), and privately-owned school buses contracted to transport public school children. While the program began its focus on AB 617 communities, the Governing Board also allocated funding for any disadvantaged or low-income community in the Valley—and those funds were quickly utilized. The District's Electric School Bus Program is separate from the state-run VW Mitigation Trust program.

Supporting Public Agencies' Clean Air Efforts

In the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, local public agencies are stepping up to make a lasting impact on air quality. Through the District's Public Benefit Grants Program, these agencies are receiving the support they need to transform their fleets with cleaner, greener vehicles and equipment—all thanks to funding from the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchase component.

For Valley cities, counties, special districts, and public educational institutions, the program has opened doors to a clean-air revolution. By offering monetary incentives, the program has given public agencies the flexibility and leverage needed to purchase alternative-fueled light-duty vehicles and off-road equipment, significantly reducing emissions across the region. From battery-electric cars and plug-in hybrids to all-electric utility carts, these agencies are making real strides in the transition to cleaner technologies.

Since the program's inception in April 2011, the District has awarded over $61 million in funding, leading to the purchase of more than 3,500 clean-air vehicles and equipment. These projects, implemented by school districts, water districts, irrigation districts, and other public entities, are making a tangible difference in underserved communities, where cleaner air can have the most significant impact on health and well-being.

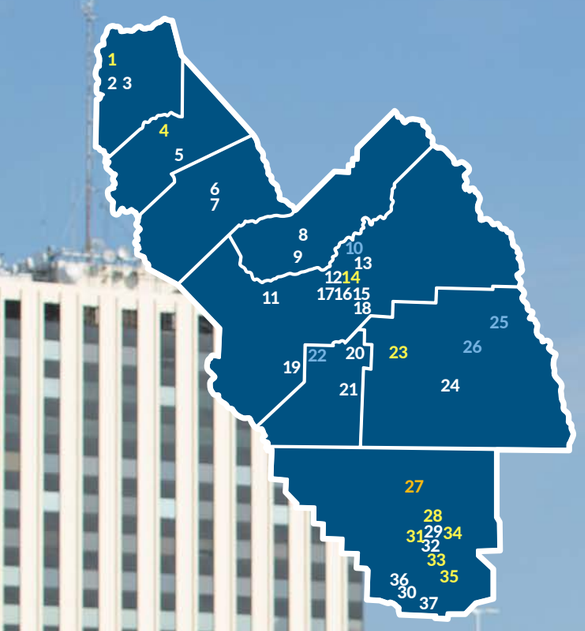
The program is helping local agencies lead by example, showing that even small changes can make a big difference. By updating their fleets to cleaner, alternative options, public agencies are not just improving air quality—they're setting a precedent for future generations and making the San Joaquin Valley a healthier place for all to live.

The Science Behind Air Quality Monitoring

In pursuit of its mission to enhance air quality and uphold public health standards mandated by the federal Clean Air Act, the District administers a comprehensive array of air quality monitors. These monitors form a robust network, furnishing vital data essential for informed decision-making.

Leveraging data from these real-time monitors, the District issues daily Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts for each county within the Valley. Additionally, schools and Valley residents can register to receive hourly real-time notifications, ensuring timely awareness of air quality conditions.

Furthermore, the District undertakes thorough analysis of the collected air quality data. This detailed examination serves as a cornerstone in the creation of strategies aimed at achieving ozone and PM2.5 attainment goals. By scrutinizing trends and patterns, the District navigates the course toward a future marked by improved air quality and public health outcomes.



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY	
1	Stockton-University Park: G,P,F,M,T
2	Tracy-Airport: G,M,P,F
3	Manteca: P,F,M
STANISLAUS COUNTY	
4	Modesto-14th St: G,M,P,F
5	Turlock: G,M,P,F
MERCED COUNTY	
6	Merced-M St: P,F
7	Merced-Vierra: G,F
MADERA COUNTY	
8	Madera City: G,P,F,M
9	Madera-Pump Yard: G,M
FRESNO COUNTY	
Other[1]	Monache Tribe/Foothill Yokut Indians
10	Table Mountain: G,F,P,M
11	Tranquillity: G,F,M
12	Fresno-Sky Park: G,M
13	Clovis: G,M,P,F
14	Fresno-Garland: G,M,P,F,T,N
15	Fresno-Pacific: F
16	Fresno-Drummond: G,P,M
17	Fresno-Foundry Park Ave: G,M,F
18	Parlier: G,M
19	Huron: F,M

KINGS COUNTY	
20	Hanford: G,F,M,P
21	Corcoran: F,M,P
Other[1]	Tachi Yokut Tribe
22	Santa Rosa Rancheria: G,M,P
TULARE COUNTY	
23	Visalia-W.Ashland Ave: G,P,F,M
24	Porterville: G,F,M
Other[2]	
25	Lower Kaweah: A,G,M,F
26	Ash Mountain: G,M
KERN COUNTY	
27	Shafter: G,M
28	Oildale: G,M,P
29	Bakersf-Golden/M St: F,P
30	Bakersf-Westwind: G,M
31	Bakersf-Calif Ave: G,M,P,F,T
32	Bakersf-Muni: G,M
33	Bakersf-Airport (Planz): F
34	Edison: G,M
35	Arvin-Di-Giorgio: G,M
36	Maricopa: G,M
37	Lebec: F,M

MONITORING OPERATION	
●	Sites operated by the District
●	Sites operated by the District & CARB
●	Sites operated by CARB
●	Sites operated by other agencies: 1: Tribal, 2: National Park Service

MONITORING DESIGNATIONS	
A	Measures precipitation with acidic components
F	Measures fine particulate matter (PM2.5)
G	Measures gaseous pollutants (e.g. ozone, NO2, CO)
M	Measures meteorological parameters (e.g. wind speed/direction, temp, RH, pressure)
P	Measures particulate matter (PM10)
N	Comprehensive National Core air monitoring site focused on measuring particulate matter, PM2.5 speciation, gaseous pollutants, meteorology
T	Measures hazardous air pollutants, including VOCs, carbonyls, PM10 metals, hexavalent chromium, and PAHs

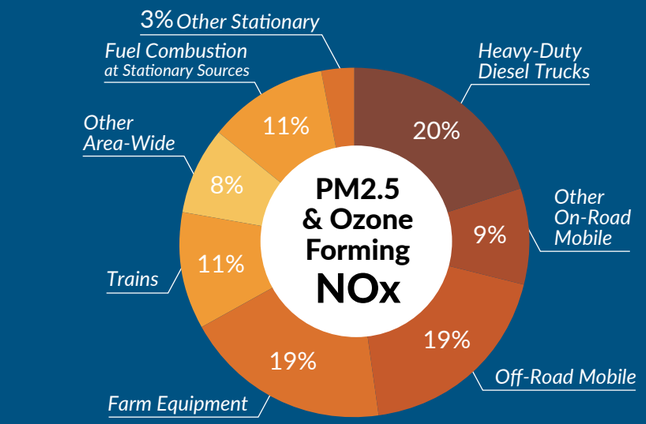
Sources of Emissions

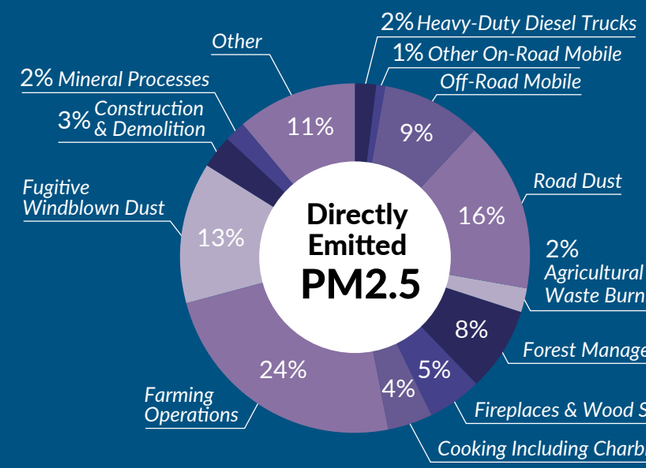
Yearly, the District must gather emissions and process data from over 6,000 facilities and other relevant sources. This information is then used to determine the annual emissions for each facility, which are subsequently reported to the California Air Resources Board (CARB). This comprehensive emissions inventory serves as a cornerstone in the District's endeavors to combat air pollution through the formulation of attainment plans and emission control strategies.

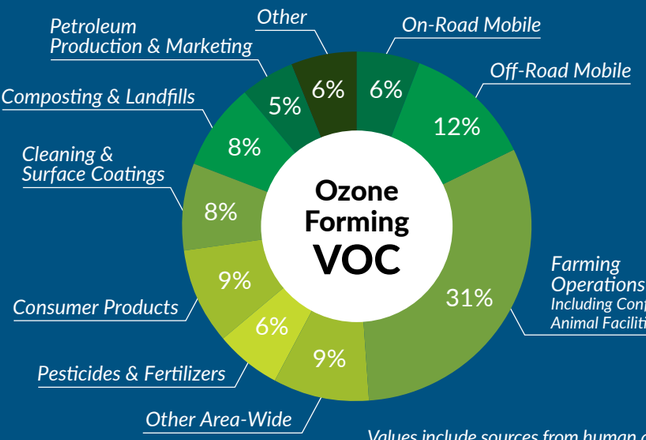
OZONE a key component of the Valley's summertime "smog," poses significant risks to both human health and vegetation. Unlike other pollutants, ozone isn't directly emitted into the atmosphere but is instead formed through photochemical reactions involving oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight.

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) encompasses minute particles of solids or liquids suspended in the air, excluding pure water. This category includes both PM2.5 (particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) and PM10 (particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter). PM can originate directly from sources like dust or soot (primary PM) or form in the atmosphere through chemical reactions or gaseous precursors (secondary PM). In the San Joaquin Valley, a significant portion of ambient PM10 and PM2.5 is secondary PM, resulting from atmospheric reactions involving NOx.

Given the Valley's unique climate and the chemical composition of air pollutants, NOx has emerged as a primary target for both the District and CARB in addressing challenges related to Ozone and PM2.5. Efforts to mitigate NOx emissions are crucial in combating these air quality issues and protecting the health and well-being of Valley residents.







Values include sources from human activity and do not include sources like wildfires or naturally-occurring emissions.

Cultivating Excellence the
District's Commitment to STAR Culture

The District is dedicated to fostering a workforce that not only delivers innovative, high-quality technical work but also provides outstanding customer service to the public, the regulated community, and all those we engage with in the course of our business. Beyond professional excellence, the District is deeply committed to cultivating a positive workplace—one that values and celebrates the unique qualities and backgrounds of employees and community members alike.

To uphold this commitment, the District has implemented STAR — an organizational work culture program centered around Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Respect. This initiative is designed to create an environment where exceptional service, strong collaboration, a positive mindset, and mutual respect are ingrained in every employee's role.

The STAR work culture thrives through a structured, continuous approach that promotes superior customer service and ongoing improvement while strengthening employee morale, performance, and interpersonal skills. Key aspects of the STAR initiative include:

- Empowering employees to identify challenges and implement solutions.
- Upholding high standards for customer service, performance, and professionalism.
- Providing continuous training and development opportunities.
- Recognizing and rewarding outstanding contributions and achievements.

Through the vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment of the District's Governing Board, the STAR program has contributed to remarkable accomplishments, reinforcing a culture of excellence that benefits both employees and the communities they serve.

The Core Values of STAR

SERVICE – Delivering exceptional service in every interaction with internal and external customers.

TEAMWORK – Collaborating beyond departments and programs to achieve shared District goals.

ATTITUDE – Maintaining a professional, courteous, and positive approach in all relationships.

RESPECT – Honoring the perspectives of Valley residents and colleagues while upholding the District's mission.

With integrity, accountability, and a commitment to efficiency, the District embraces the STAR culture to ensure the highest level of service and professionalism. By embedding these principles in the workplace and in our interactions with the public, we continue to uphold our mission of excellence while fostering a culture of respect, collaboration, and innovation.

District Employees Give Back Through
Community Service Projects

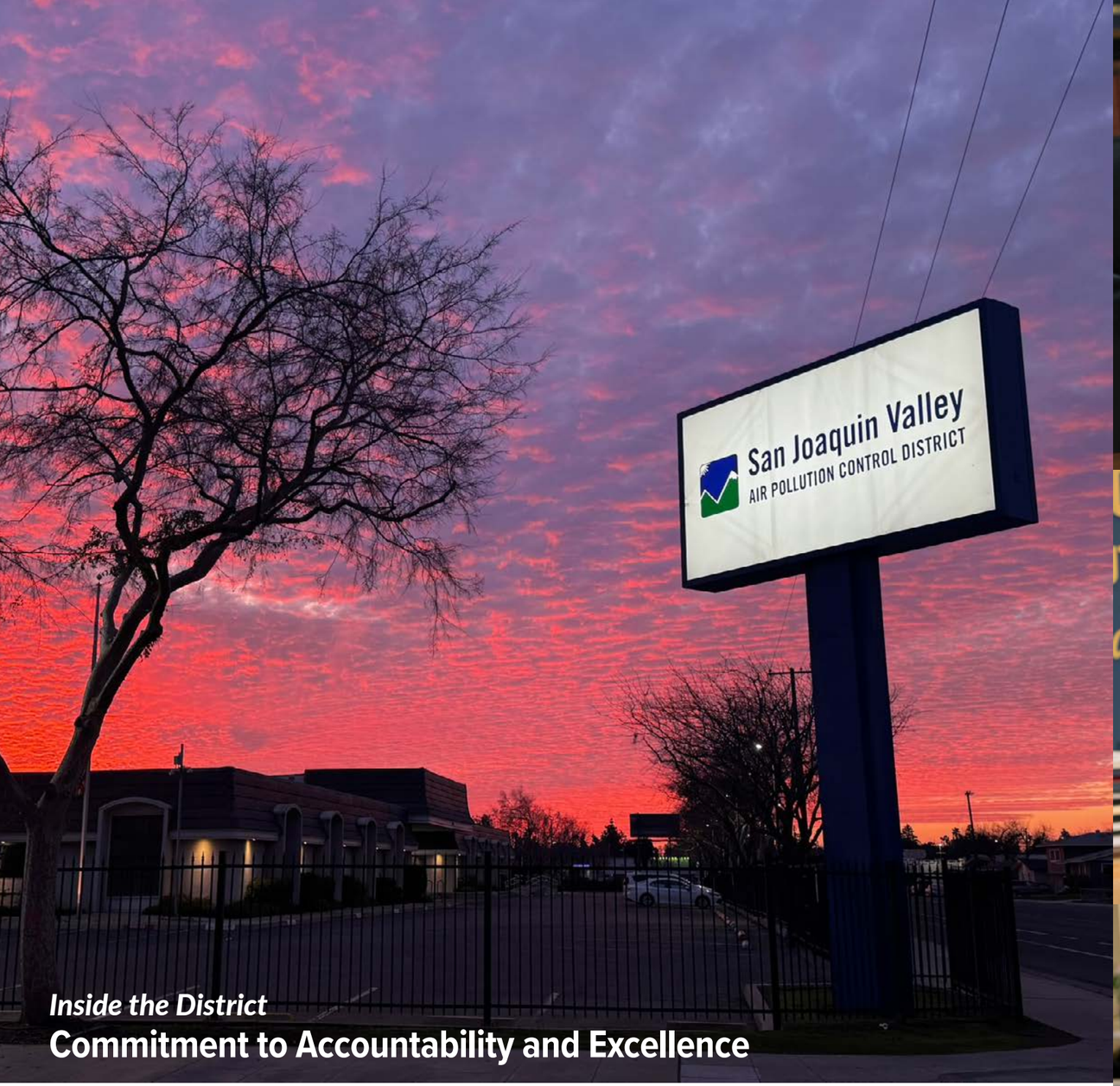
Across the Valley, District employees used their time off to support multiple Valley organizations through District-sanctioned community service projects, making a meaningful impact in their communities.

The Central Region played a vital role in the Central California Blood Drive, donating numerous pints of blood to help save lives. Employees also joined the annual Beautify Fresno event, where hundreds of volunteers came together to remove graffiti and clean up trash in various parts of the city. Additionally, the team supported Animal Rescue of Fresno by organizing a pet supply drive, collecting food, toys, and other essential supplies.

In the Southern Region, employees dedicated a month to collecting essential items for the Ronald McDonald House, including household goods, food, gift certificates, cleaning supplies, and family games. These donations helped fill care baskets, providing much-needed support to families staying at the facility so they could focus on their children's healing journey.

The Northern Region took part in the Tuolumne River Cleanup, where employees worked to clear both sides of the river. Their efforts led to the removal of six tons of debris, including shopping carts and tires, helping to restore the river's natural beauty and improve the local environment.

Through these voluntary service projects, District employees demonstrated their commitment to giving back, strengthening their communities, and making a lasting difference.



Inside the District

Commitment to Accountability and Excellence

Accountability is a fundamental value guiding all of the District's operations. The District is responsible for ensuring transparency in financial management, implementing effective air quality regulations, and conducting business with efficiency and innovation. Every dollar spent and every rule adopted must contribute to cleaner air and better service for the Valley's residents. This strong commitment to accountability has earned the District high marks from auditors and recognition as a model for air quality management.

Administrative Excellence

The District's administration ensures all financial and general service functions are carried out with full transparency. This includes budget preparation, accounting, financial reporting, and oversight of state and federal grants. The District has embraced digital transformation, allowing businesses and individuals to make payments online through e-checks, debit, and credit cards. Facilities can now view outstanding invoices, submit payments, and receive instant confirmations through an online portal.

In an effort to improve efficiency and reduce waste, the District has transitioned many processes—including application submissions, billing adjustments, contract execution, and payment requests—to electronic processing.

Legal Oversight

The District Counsel's office plays a crucial role in defending the District's regulations and ensuring compliance with air quality laws. It represents the District in legal matters, advocating for fair policies that reflect the Valley's unique air quality challenges.

The Counsel's office also works closely with the Compliance Department to enforce rules and address violations. Under state law, businesses or individuals who violate District regulations may face financial penalties or even criminal charges. However, the District offers an informal mutual settlement process, allowing parties out of compliance to resolve penalties before resorting to court action. In many cases, this process results in a lower cost for the party involved and a quicker resolution. The public is encouraged to respond to communications from the District's Counsel's office to take advantage of these informal settlements, with installment payment options available when necessary.

Human Resources and Workforce Wellbeing

The District's Human Resources team ensures the organization maintains a skilled, diverse, and well-supported workforce. This includes recruiting and training employees, managing pay and benefits, overseeing workers' compensation, and providing wellness programs. The District also ensures compliance with all employment laws and maintains fair labor relations. The District strictly prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any other protected attribute. By fostering a welcoming and equitable work environment, the District supports employees in delivering the best possible service to the community.

National Recognition for Financial Excellence

The District has once again been recognized for its commitment to transparency and financial responsibility. It received the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its fiscal year 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). GFOA is a highly regarded organization that provides guidance on governmental financial management. The Certificate of Achievement is its highest form of recognition, awarded only to agencies that meet the highest standards of financial reporting and accountability. This award affirms the District's dedication to sound fiscal management and reinforces public trust in its financial stewardship.

Information & Technology Services

The District has prioritized utilizing advanced technology to improve customer service and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. Several technology projects were completed in the past year, and more are underway to support the District's mission and exceed customer expectations. These technological innovations are essential to the District's success and are embraced across departments to provide new tools and resources.

One of the key initiatives is the deployment of online Geographic Information System (GIS) software, which helps the District evaluate data visually and share it with stakeholders more effectively. GIS enables the creation of customizable online dashboards that track air quality data, monitor air monitoring sites, and oversee other District programs. This technology enhances communication by offering live, real-time data and easy-to-understand visuals for stakeholders. The system is scalable, ensuring the District can continue to meet growing air quality reporting needs and provide the most up-to-date information to the public. Additionally, GIS integrates seamlessly with other business applications, contributing to system resiliency and minimizing downtime.

The District also upgraded its Video Teleconferencing (VTC) system to enhance communication during meetings. The new VTC system supports seamless meetings between the three District offices, with virtual participation options for external stakeholders. By reducing travel, the system minimizes transportation emissions, saves time, and allows for more interactive meetings. The upgraded system also features improved audio and video technology, reducing hardware complexity and maintenance needs while offering a better user experience. Integration with virtual meeting technology further expands the District's ability to host and manage meetings, while giving the public more opportunities to participate in District activities.

To ensure operational continuity, the District implemented multi-site resiliency to safeguard against disruptions. This approach involves storing critical data across geographically dispersed locations, minimizing the impact of system failures and reducing downtime. By investing in hardware, software, and network infrastructure, the District aims to maintain essential services such as real-time air quality data, grant applications, and mobile apps, even during emergencies or technical issues. Additionally, the District is upgrading its data backup system to further enhance data recovery and reliability.

Recognizing the growing threat of cyberattacks, the District commissioned a cybersecurity audit to assess its IT infrastructure and ensure compliance with data protection standards. This audit is identifying system vulnerabilities and helping the District strengthen security controls, reducing the risk of breaches, data loss, or downtime. Recommendations from the audit inform the District's security strategies and improve stakeholder trust.

The District is also upgrading its Permit Administration System (PAS), which has been in operation since 1999. The current system, while functional, is becoming outdated and relies on unsupported third-party components. The upgrade will improve network security, streamline workflows, and provide better customer service.

Another significant initiative is the implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The current financial software suite is outdated, and the new ERP system modernizes operations across finance, human resources, and supply chain management. It will provide real-time data, improve business decision-making, and automate manual processes.

Finally, the District has redesigned its website to enhance accessibility, security, and user experience. The new site streamlines access to crucial information, such as air quality data and grant applications, and allows for quicker updates. Accessibility features ensure all Valley residents can easily access District services and information.

Through these technology upgrades, the District is committed to improving service delivery, enhancing efficiency, and staying ahead in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Permitting

*The District works closely with Valley businesses and assists them in complying with the Valley's air pollution regulations, which are some of the most stringent in the nation. Overseeing **48,900** permits and registrations for **15,100** facilities, the District plays a pivotal role in protecting air quality and the health of Valley residents.*

PERMITTING BY THE NUMBERS	
2,427	Authority to Construct permits issued
3	Initial Title V permit projects processed
34	Title V permit renewal projects processed
101	Title V permit modification projects processed
23	Emission Reduction Credit banking or transfer projects processed
178	Permit-Exempt Equipment Registrations projects processed
275	Conservation Management Practices plans processed
660	Toxic air contaminant risk management reviews processed
6,654	Facility emissions inventory projects processed
1,132	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review requests processed
448	CEQA comment letters sent to Valley agencies
286	Indirect Source Review applications processed
17	Employer Trip Reduction Implementation Plans processed

AUTHORITIES TO CONSTRUCT & PERMITS TO OPERATE
Stationary sources of air pollution, from dry cleaners and auto body shops to power plants and oil refineries, must obtain air permits from the District before constructing or operating. The permitting process involves two major steps:

The applicant must first apply for an Authority to Construct (ATC) permit. The application review process is an important opportunity for all interested parties - the project proponent, the District, and the interested public to assess a project's compliance with federal, state, and local air pollution regulations prior to beginning construction. To obtain an air permit in the Valley, the District requires the best available air pollution control equipment as well as the mitigation of emission increases.

Once the District determines that the applicant has properly installed the equipment and is operating in compliance with the conditions on the ATC, a Permit to Operate is issued.

FEDERALLY MANDATED OPERATING PERMITS (TITLE V)
There are 240 facilities in the District that are subject to federal Title V permits. Federal law requires major sources to obtain Title V permits, which are designed to expand public and EPA participation in the permitting process for the largest emitters of air contaminants.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CMP) PLANS
The District is responsible for updating approximately 6,000 CMP plans designed to reduce air pollution emissions from on-field agricultural operations.

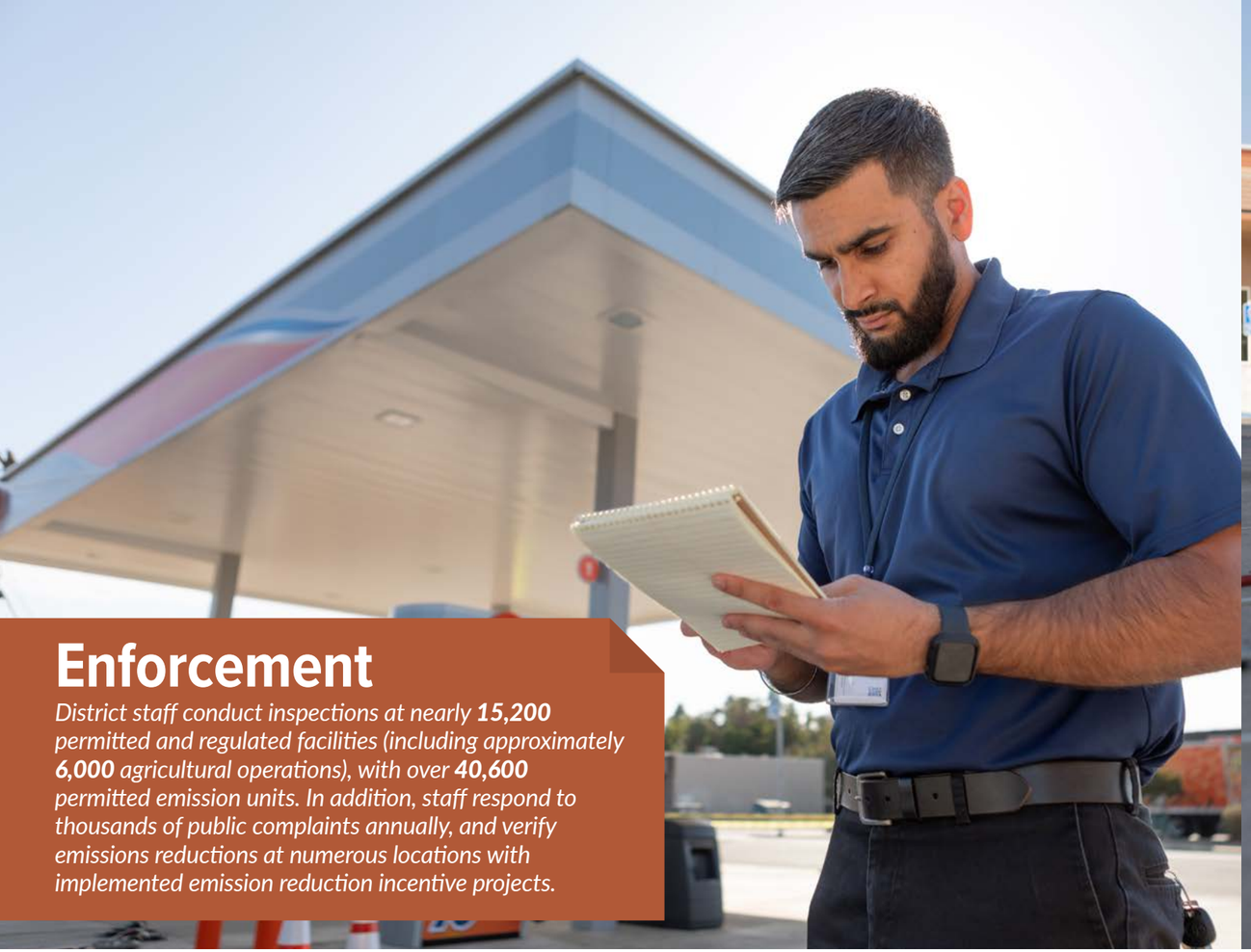
EMISSIONS INVENTORY
Each year, the District collects emissions and process data from thousands of facilities and other information sources, calculates each facility's annual emissions, and reports the emissions to the California Air Resources Board. This emissions inventory then acts as a cornerstone of the District's efforts to reduce air pollution through attainment plans and emission control strategies.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
CEQA is the state law that requires projects' environmental impacts to be assessed and disclosed to the public, and that significant impacts be mitigated to a less than significant level when feasible. District staff carefully reviews land developers' project proposals, proposed permits for stationary sources of pollution, and attainment plans and rules, for compliance with CEQA requirements.

INDIRECT SOURCE REVIEW (ISR)
The District's ISR Rule (Rule 9510) is the only rule of its kind in the State of California and throughout the nation, which applies to new residential and non-residential development projects. The purpose of Rule 9510 is to reduce growth in both NOx and PM10 emissions from mobile and area sources associated with construction and operation of new development projects in the Valley, by encouraging clean air designs to be incorporated into the development project, or, if insufficient emission reductions cannot be designed into the project, by paying a mitigation fee that will be used to fund off-site emissions reduction projects. One hundred percent of the mitigation fees received by the District are used to fund emission reduction projects on behalf of project developers.

EMPLOYER BASED TRIP REDUCTION (ETRIP)
The purpose of the District's eTrip Rule (Rule 9410) is to reduce vehicle miles traveled from private vehicles used by employees to commute to and from their worksites to reduce emissions of NOx, VOC and PM10. Rule 9410 requires employers with 100 or more "eligible" employees at a worksite to establish an Employer Trip Reduction Implementation Plan (eTrip Plan) that encourages employees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, thus reducing pollutant emissions associated with work commutes. An eTrip Plan is a set of measures an employer chooses that will encourage employees at the worksite to use alternative transportation and ridesharing for their commutes. The District has worked with and continues to work with hundreds of registered worksites, reviewing and approving eTrip plans on an ongoing basis. Employers have the flexibility to choose the options that work best for their worksites and their employees.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE (SBA)
Exceptional customer service is more than just a core value of the District, it is ingrained in our work culture. A great example of this is the District's SBA team, whose mission is to provide dedicated assistance to Valley businesses who lack the resources or expertise needed to efficiently obtain air permits or otherwise comply with District requirements. Our SBA staff provides expert advice on technology options, application processes, and cost-efficient methods to comply with District requirements, as well as many other air quality issues. Interested parties can contact the District SBA staff directly through dedicated hotline telephone numbers: Fresno - (559) 230-5888, Modesto - (209) 557-6446, and Bakersfield - (661) 392-5665.



Enforcement

*District staff conduct inspections at nearly **15,200** permitted and regulated facilities (including approximately **6,000** agricultural operations), with over **40,600** permitted emission units. In addition, staff respond to thousands of public complaints annually, and verify emissions reductions at numerous locations with implemented emission reduction incentive projects.*

As a vital component of the District's regulatory program, the Compliance Department conducts a range of enforcement and compliance assistance activities to ensure adherence to District, state, and federal regulations. These activities align with program objectives outlined in federal and state laws as well as the District's air quality attainment plans. Collaborating with agencies like the California Air Resources Board (CARB), EPA, and others, the District participates in joint enforcement initiatives, leveraging expertise in enforcing stationary source regulations. Inspectors ensure compliance with operating permits and regulations through detailed on-site reviews of permitted equipment and associated records, including inspections for agricultural and residential burning restrictions.

COMPLAINT RESPONSE

Thousands of complaints received annually prompt timely responses and investigations by District inspectors. Inspectors are on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and the District facilitates complaint submission through automated voicemail, mobile app, online portal, and a bilingual telephone line, ensuring accessibility for all Valley residents.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

Emphasizing compliance assistance, the District offers resources, individualized assistance, training opportunities, workshops, and outreach efforts to help residents and businesses comply with air pollution regulations. Training sessions during inspections, Compliance Assistance Bulletins, and certification courses support compliance efforts.

INSPECTIONS

Routine inspections ensure compliance at new and existing facilities across various sectors, including petroleum refining, manufacturing, agriculture, and more. Activities such as asbestos abatement, construction, and idling diesel trucks are also inspected.

SOURCE TESTING AND MONITORING

The District employs various methods, including specialized monitoring equipment and certified staff, to monitor emissions from facilities. Timely tests aid in identifying and correcting non-compliance. Testing also supports permitting, rule development, planning, and technology advancement efforts.

ENFORCEMENT OF REQUIREMENT

Despite compliance assistance efforts, enforcement actions address non-compliance with rules and regulations. The District prioritizes prompt return to compliance and ongoing education. Disputed cases are settled through mutual agreements, with rare cases transferred to District Counsel for formal action. In 2024, the District issued nearly 2,900 notices and transferred 467 cases to District Counsel.

HEARING BOARDS

Quasi-judicial panels known as Hearing Boards provide temporary relief from District rules and regulations when specific conditions are met. Any excess emissions granted by Hearing Boards represent a small fraction of the Valley's total emissions. In 2024, the District received 80 variance petitions and held 38 Hearing Board meetings.

COMPLIANCE BY THE NUMBERS	
34,393	*Units Inspected*
2,674	*Public Complaints Investigated*
354	*Permitted Open Burn Sites Inspected*
10,190	*Incentive Funding Units Verified (i.e. trucks, tractors)*
1,568	*Asbestos Projects Reviewed & Inspected*

Outreach & Communications

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AIR QUALITY EDUCATION

The District is dedicated to creating a cleaner, healthier San Joaquin Valley through dynamic public education and outreach efforts. By embracing innovative strategies and creative initiatives, the District actively collaborates with Valley partners to drive progress toward cleaner air. District staff work diligently to inform and empower residents, businesses, schools, media, public agencies, and local organizations. Their award-winning efforts highlight key air quality challenges, substantial investments in clean-air projects, practical steps the public can take, and the measurable improvements being made to the Valley's air quality.

SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL OUTREACH

To stay connected with Valley residents, the District maintains an active presence across multiple social media platforms, including Facebook, X, Instagram, Threads, NextDoor, and LinkedIn. Staff consistently monitor and engage with the online community, facilitating real-time conversations about air quality topics. Targeted social media ads further extend outreach efforts, ensuring important messages reach the intended audiences. Additionally, the District's YouTube channel serves as a valuable resource, offering an extensive library of educational videos, grant promotions, meeting recordings, and District commercials. Many of these in-house productions air as paid media on television, cable, and digital platforms in both English and Spanish, broadening the impact of the District's messaging. Complementing these digital efforts, the District publishes Valley Air News, a quarterly newsletter that recently transitioned from a single-page format to a digital version featuring multiple stories, key air quality updates, and important links to grant programs and opportunities. To receive the Valley Air News email, visit valleyair.org/sign-up.

MEDIA RELATIONS & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Strong relationships with reporters, news directors, and media partners are essential to the District's mission and public awareness. Through the release of numerous bilingual press releases each year, the District delivers clear, accessible information on air quality topics. Media outlets frequently rely on these updates as primary sources for air quality reporting. In times of heightened concern—such as extreme wind events or significant air quality changes—the District promptly issues alerts to ensure the public stays informed. This ongoing work with media partners helps ensure accurate, timely information reaches Valley communities, reinforcing the District's commitment to air quality awareness and education.

ENHANCING PUBLIC FACING AIR QUALITY TOOLS

As federal air quality standards tighten and wildfires continue to impact air quality nationwide, EPA's AirNow tools and AQI have become the preferred resources for schools and the public—both outside and increasingly within the Valley—for guiding outdoor activities. In response to these developments and the availability of new AirNow tools and data, the District has begun integrating AirNow resources into its Real-time Air Advisory Network, school-based initiatives and public outreach efforts.

This integration aims to create a seamless connection between real-time air quality data and the established District Real-time Outdoor Activity Recommendations (ROAR) for schools. Through the Healthy Air Living Schools program, the District actively engages with schools to ensure they understand and can effectively use these updates to support student health and safety. Additionally, ongoing work with the EPA's AirNow team will help enhance both the District's air quality tools and the broader AirNow system.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS & EVENTS

Throughout the year, the District actively participates in a wide range of community outreach events, providing educational presentations, distributing informative materials, and directly engaging with Valley residents. Key events in 2024 included Ag Day at the State Capitol, World Ag Expo, Earth Day and Community Clean Air Day. Public events serve as valuable opportunities to share key air quality messages, encourage positive behavior changes, and promote grants and other resources available to the public. Organizations interested in scheduling a bilingual speaker, presenter, or an educational booth at a public event can contact the District through email at public.education@valleyair.org.

PRIORITIZING MULTILINGUAL OUTREACH

Over the past several years, the District has significantly expanded its outreach efforts by translating documents into multiple languages, ensuring that residents, regardless of language barriers, can stay informed about air quality regulations, incentive programs, and health advisories. Over the past year alone, more than 600 documents—including presentations, annual reports, program flyers, and brochures—have been translated in-house providing a much faster turnaround than using a third-party service. Additionally, the District actively engages with Spanish-speaking residents through community events, radio and television interviews, and social media content, making air quality information more accessible. Through ongoing collaboration with local organizations, community leaders, and media partners, these efforts continue to strengthen relationships, empower Valley residents with valuable resources, and encourage participation in improving air quality and protecting public health.

PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

The District works with health departments in all eight San Joaquin Valley counties to share air quality education and help protect public health. During wildfires, blowing dust, and other air quality episodes, the District coordinates with county office of emergency service and health officers to provide clear information and resources to help communities stay informed and safe. Health departments help share this information and address public concerns. Together, we work alongside the county health officers to safeguard the well-being of Valley residents and cultivate a shared understanding of the need to protect air quality for the health of all Valley residents.

CONNECTING THE PUBLIC TO CLEAN AIR FUNDING

Improving air quality is a shared responsibility, and the District is committed to making clean-air solutions accessible to everyone. A variety of incentive programs are available to help reduce harmful emissions, and the District dedicates time and resources to educating the public about these opportunities. Through outreach efforts and partnerships, the District connects Valley residents, businesses, and organizations with funding programs that can make a tangible impact on air quality. By increasing awareness of these resources, the District empowers the community to take meaningful action in the fight for cleaner air.

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS	
103	*Media calls*
908	*Public calls*
23	*News Releases*
1,567	*Social Media Posts*
174	*Presentations/ Outreach Events*

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

1990 East Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno CA 93726

CONTACT US:

Central Region Office	559.230.6000
Northern Region Office	209.557.6400
Southern Region Office	661.392.5500

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