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## **Yosemite conference examines ozone pollution from Asia *National, state and local air quality policy implications on Thursday's agenda***

Today more than 50 of the nation's top air-quality scientists are sharing research on Day 2 of a three-day groundbreaking conference near Yosemite National Park addressing the impact of ozone from Asia on the Central Valley and California.

The Transboundary Ozone Pollution Conference is jointly sponsored by the Valley Air District and NASA's Air Quality Applied Science Team. Esteemed researchers from more than a dozen universities and organizations from the U.S. and China are convened to discuss transboundary ozone and its health and policy implications on the west coast of the U.S. and, specifically, the Valley.

"One of the reasons I was so drawn to atmospheric science is because we're intimately sharing this substance that's totally vital to us," said Ian Faloon, an atmospheric scientist at UC Davis and a conference presenter. "Air is something that we have to share. To me, it's always been an obvious connector of people. We're becoming more cognizant of how connected we are and how all of our decisions have to be made on a global scale from here on in."

The conference is timely as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is planning to reduce the ozone health standard from 75 parts per billion to between 65 ppb and 70 ppb later this year, which will pose a difficult challenge to the Valley.

"Regardless of what the impact from Asia is, we must and we will do everything feasible to control the local sources of air pollution. Yet in addition, we are definitely also pursuing the best science to identify all sources that contribute to our air quality so that realistic solutions that work for the Valley can be implemented," said Seyed Sadredin, the Valley Air District's executive director. "At the end of the day, the Valley should not be penalized for pollution over which we have no control."

Sadredin noted that in the past 20 years, the Valley has reduced pollution-forming emissions by more than 80 percent and spent \$40 billion in public and private funds for new processes and technologies that have dramatically reduced pollution. However, looming new federal air quality standards will be very difficult to meet, he added. "The information being shared at this conference will be invaluable to not only our air basin but throughout the nation."

Thursday's agenda includes discussions of policy implications for the Valley as it struggles to meet more stringent standards and implications for the entire nation as more areas fail to meet the new federal requirements. Topics include the use of new air quality management tools to better understand and manage transboundary ozone's impact, and a technology and policy options roundtable.

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## **Transboundary ozone conference under way**

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Scheduled speakers for the conference's final day include Kerry Drake, associate director of the EPA Region 9 air program, Karen Magliano, the chief of air quality planning and science at the state Air Resources Board, Jack Broadbent, executive director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and Sadredin.

As standards get tighter, financial penalties for air districts that fail to meet the standards can become burdensome, especially in the already economically distressed Valley. The presence of what researchers estimate is up to 10 percent of the Valley's ozone originating from Asia, can be a significant factor in keeping the Valley from reaching the new federal goals.

### **Media note**

The media are invited to attend the transboundary ozone conference at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park, video and audio opportunities will be available. Thursday's session will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For a full agenda and additional conference information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/topc>.