

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

To:

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assignment editors**

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## **Air District urges residents to save gas and clear the air**

(Fresno, CA) - The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District offers the following tips to help residents save money on gas while helping improve air quality.

### **Keep your vehicle maintained**

Make sure your vehicle is operating at peak efficiency. Fouled spark plugs, improperly inflated tires, dirty air and fuel filters, and wheels that are out of alignment all lead to decreased gas mileage. Turning off the air conditioning will improve gas mileage as well.

### **Plan ahead by linking trips**

Combine your errands into one trip, known as trip linking, rather than making multiple trips. Choose the best route so that you don't have to retrace your route. If some stops are close together, park in a central place and walk to each one instead of driving. If possible, go during the least congested time of the day so that you don't end up spending unnecessary time in traffic.

### **Don't top off that tank**

When fueling up, don't try to squeeze an extra 30 or 40 cents into the tank after the pump automatically shuts off. The extra gas doesn't go into your tank; instead, it backs up into the vapor-recovery line in the gas pump and goes into the tank of the person who fills up after you. So don't top off. The wasted gas also contributes to smog and fills the air with cancer-causing toxics.

### **Look for fuel efficiency**

If you are planning to purchase a vehicle, consider buying a model with higher gas mileage. In addition to hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles, some of which get 45 or more miles to a gallon of gas, many newer vehicles have increased fuel efficiency. Look on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's web site, [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/), to compare the mileage ratings of various vehicles.

### **Use alternate transportation**

Carpool, use public transportation, bicycle or walk instead of driving, even if it's just once or twice a week.

The San Joaquin Valley air basin fails to meet state and federal air-quality standards. The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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