

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - July 2009

Join us for Air Quality Chats

Tues., July 21
Modesto/Salida

Thurs., July 23
Hanford

Tues., July 28
Arvin

Tues., Aug. 4
Stockton

Thurs., Aug. 6
Los Banos

Find out more about Air Quality Chats, including times and locations, at www.healthyliving.com.

District drafts employer-based trip reduction rule

Fulfilling commitments made in the 2007 Ozone Plan and the 2008 PM2.5 Plan, the Air District is forming a rule requiring larger employers to establish trip reduction programs.

Rule 9410 provides employers of at least 100 eligible workers a menu of options to make it more convenient for them to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips made during their work day.

These trip reductions reduce both traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, while often saving employees money on fuel, and vehicle wear.

Among the list of strategies that employers affected by the rule may choose are:

- Providing a van for a daily work commute. Employers may choose whether or not to charge employees for participation in the van pool.
- Providing an internal rideshare matching service to help employees find ideal carpool partners.
- Providing preferential or free parking to carpoolers.
- Allowing employees a flexible work schedule to facilitate the use of public transportation.
- Starting a telecommuting program. Some employees may have the ability to do their jobs from home, thus eliminating the need to drive to work.
- Provide bicycles for employees who take public transportation or carpool to work, allowing them to use a bike for errands or exercise during lunch and breaks.
- Providing a monetary incentive to employees who regularly use alternative transportation to work, such as a cash stipend each pay period.
- Providing free and discounted transit passes to employees.
- Providing services onsite to eliminate the need for employees to drive during breaks and lunch, such as onsite food service, postage service, check cashing, dry cleaning pick-up and delivery, onsite ATM and exercise facilities.

Exceptions to rule 9410 include agricultural workers, part-time workers, those who do not arrive to work between the hours of 6AM and 10AM, seasonal and temporary employees, independent contractors and volunteers, and emergency health and safety employees.

The Air District held its first round of workshops on the draft rule 9410 in July, is currently receiving public comments and plans to hold a second round of workshops in September.

The final draft rule is expected to go before the Air District's Governing Board for consideration in December. If adopted, the rule would be effective in July 2010.

To view the draft rule, visit the Air District's website at: www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public_workshops_idx.htm.

Get cash to crush your polluting car

Money is available to residents of the eight-county air basin to retire their older, polluting cars.



Through the PASS (Polluting Automobile Scrap and Salvage) program, owners of older, polluting cars may receive either \$1,000 in cash or \$5,000 toward the purchase of a newer, cleaner car. \$2 million is available through the program and applications will be taken until funds run out.

"This program is a valuable option for people to turn in an older car and receive cash or a credit toward a cleaner car. Either way, they'll be helping to cut emissions in the Valley and clean up our air," said Samir Sheikh, the District's director of emission reduction incentive programs.

Vehicle emissions account for more than half the air pollution in the Valley.

To be considered for the program, cars must:

- Have been continuously registered in the air basin for 24 months (the air basin is San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties);
- Be in drivable condition;
- Have passed the most recent smog check.

Participating cars will be scrapped for \$1,000 in cash OR some vehicles may be eligible for a \$5,000 credit toward the purchase of a newer, cleaner car. Replacement vehicles may be purchased at any local participating dealer. Eligibility for replacement is determined by vehicle history, age and emissions.

Pick Your Part is the District's authorized administrator of the PASS program. To find out if a car is eligible for the program, call 1-877-900 JUNK (5865). Information is also available at www.valleyair.org/PASS.htm.