

AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Policy Solutions for the San Joaquin Valley

The air quality problems facing residents in the San Joaquin Valley are severe and require policy solutions at all levels of government. A summary of recent state legislation is below, followed by selected legislative and regulatory policy opportunities for the near future.

RECENTLY ENACTED STATE LAWS: THE BEGINNINGS OF REFORM

SB 700 (Florez) – Repealed the law that exempted agricultural operations from air quality regulations. Requires the use of best available control technology (BACT) and management practices for agricultural sources of air pollution.

Requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to provide information to agricultural entities about pollution control measures available to reduce air pollution from stationary sources in the Valley.

SB 709 (Florez) – Established an Air District-approved fee for indirect or area sources of air pollution in the Valley. Monies from this fee will be used for programs to mitigate the air quality impacts of these sources. Encourages ride-sharing in the most congested areas of the region.

Establishes a streamlined permitting process for clean vehicle technologies. Requires the District to provide information to farmers and small businesses on clean-burning fuels and low-cost financing for pollution control equipment.

SB 704/705 (Florez) – SB 705 phases out most agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV). SB 704 provides financial incentives for using agricultural waste in energy production.

SB 656 (Sher) – Directs CARB to work with air districts to develop a list of available, feasible and cost-effective measures to reduce emissions of toxic particulate matter (PM). Requires air districts to implement priority measures and to make progress toward meeting PM standards.

AB 923 (Firebaugh/Pavley) – Increases District-imposed vehicle registration fees and the fee on new tire sales for the purpose of funding emission reduction projects through the Carl Moyer Air Quality Attainment and the Low-emission School Bus programs.

AB 170 (Reyes) – Requires each city and county in the San Joaquin Valley to amend its general plan to include analyses, goals, policies and implementation strategies for improving air quality in the region. Requires review by the SJV Air Pollution Control District.

- ◇ Reform the structure of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board to (a) include public members with medical expertise and (b) give more representation to the region's urban population centers.
- ◇ Develop and enforce strong regulations as part of the Diesel Risk Reduction Plan.
- ◇ Secure additional and stable funding for the Carl Moyer and Low-emission School Bus incentive programs.
- ◇ Pass legislation to require reductions in toxic diesel emissions from locomotives.
- ◇ Implement a comprehensive and stringent indirect source mitigation program.

A VALLEY CLEAN AIR ACTION PLAN: AIR QUALITY REFORM CONTINUES

- ◇ Enact regulations to restrict emissions from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) near sensitive sites such as schools.
- ◇ Develop a Smog Check program for heavy-duty vehicles.
- ◇ Develop and implement strong regulations and make smart planning decisions to limit the emissions of heat-trapping gases into our atmosphere.
- ◇ Enact 'smart growth' measures on a regional basis to reduce vehicle-miles traveled (VMTs).



Union of Concerned Scientists

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