



## Air Quality Work Group

### Challenge

The San Joaquin Valley's air quality is among the worst in the nation, having a significant impact on the health of its residents and the economy. The Valley has one of the highest rates of respiratory ailments and mortality rates attributable to air pollution in the nation. In addition, the air quality has an adverse effect on the region's economic growth, making it difficult to attract and retain workers and businesses.

### Opportunity

Make it possible for residents to enjoy healthy air by removing the adverse impacts of poor air quality and improving the quality of life.

### Focus

The Air Quality Work Group focuses on improving the quality of the San Joaquin Valley's air through bold and sustainable actions that will enable residents to enjoy healthy air. The goals of the work group are to achieve air quality compliance set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); establish the Valley as a national leader in air quality management; and engage Valley residents in a clean air strategy that includes monitoring, reporting of performance, and accountability.

### Success for the San Joaquin Valley

- The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) partnered with Valley Clean Air Now (CAN) to implement Tune in Tune Up (TITU) events throughout the Valley. The events are designed to provide vehicle emissions tests and vehicle repairs to Valley residents at little or no cost. More than 5,000 vehicles were screened and almost 2,900 vehicle repair vouchers were issued.
- The District continued the Burn Cleaner Program that provides incentives for San Joaquin Valley residents to reduce emissions from wood burning devices by replacing them with cleaner gas devices, clean burning pellet devices or cleaner burning EPA Phase II certified wood burning devices. This program reduces emissions from wood burning devices that are released into the Valley air, and provides residents with cleaner devices for their homes.
- Through the Proposition 1B program, the District has offered contracts to replace or retrofit 237 trucks. These efforts have resulted in significant reductions in both oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter pollution.

### About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region's economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

### Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.

## Action

*Achieve U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for eight-hour ozone and PM2.5*

- *Negotiate with U.S. EPA to address federal constraints on alternative compliance emission reduction programs.*
- *Negotiate with U.S. EPA to allow State Implementation Plan (SIP) credits for incentive programs.*
- *Work with the Air Resources Board (ARB) to identify criteria for incentive programs in the Valley.*

*Encourage EPA adoption of tighter federal emission control standards*

- *Recommend that ARB work with U.S. EPA to ensure that On- and Off-Road Heavy Duty Vehicles and equipment comply with applicable new and in-use emission standards.*
- *Encourage U.S. EPA to develop the strongest emission control standards for locomotives. Negotiate with railroads to ensure early introduction of the cleanest locomotives into the San Joaquin Valley fleet.*

*Implement incentives to accelerate adoption of air quality improvement technologies*

- *Establish Air Quality Mitigation Zones (state level designation).*
- *Establish Air Quality Empowerment Zone (Federal level designation).*
- *Establish and fund a 5-year program to scrap and replace approximately 6,000 gross polluting passenger vehicles per year and achieve 20 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.*
- *Establish and fund a 5-year program to scrap and replace approximately 7,500 heavy duty diesel trucks per year and achieve 60 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.*
- *Establish and fund a 5-year scrap and replace program for off-road equipment to achieve 10 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.*
- *School Bus Fleet Modernization.*

*Promote clean energy projects*

- *Work with the Energy Work Group to implement and promote clean energy projects in the Valley, including a community-choice energy aggregation project and a net metering program*

*Improve transportation mobility and goods movement*

- *Work with the Transportation Work Group to support surface transportation improvements, goods movement infrastructure improvements, and public transportation improvements*

*Encourage "green" local government policies and sustainable communities*

- *Accelerate the use of clean energy technologies in local governments and state operations*
- *Include criteria for impacts on air quality for coal government and state contracts*
- *Work with Land Use, Agriculture, and Housing Work Group to support development and adoption of efficient land use patterns and green building standards*

*Accelerate research on emission-reduction strategies and clean-air technologies*

- *Work with the Energy Work Group to support research on agricultural PM10, PM2.5 and ROG emissions, dairy emissions sources, renewable energy, and alternative fuels*

*Improve public understanding of air quality issues and solutions*



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

Administered by

**FRESNO STATE**  
Community and Economic Development

### Air Quality Work Group

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