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ANNUAL REPORT

to the

COMMUNITY

An award-winning publication from the



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT®

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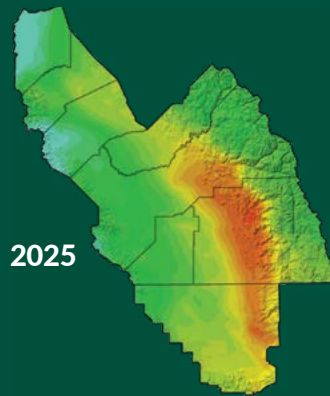
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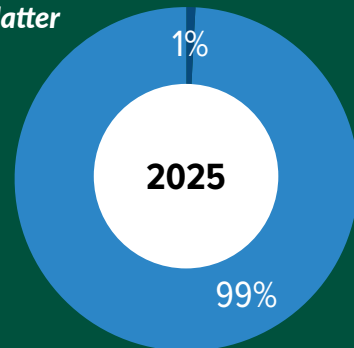


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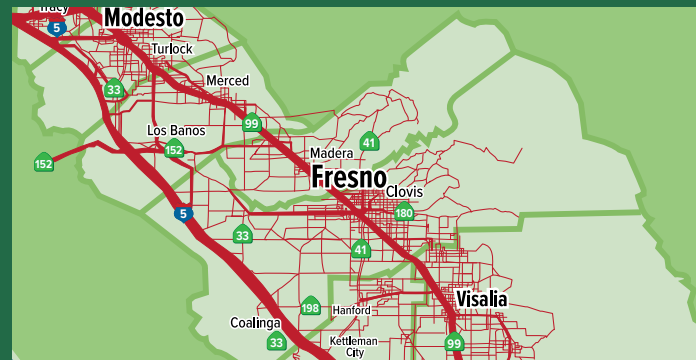
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A message from the Air Pollution Control Officer

It is my privilege to share the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's 2025 Annual Report to the Community. This past year marks an important milestone for air quality in the Valley that reflects decades of sustained effort, innovation, and collaboration.

Based on air monitoring data collected throughout the region, 2025 was the cleanest year on record across numerous air quality metrics. For the first time, every federal reference monitoring site recorded levels below the federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard. At the same

time, we continued to make meaningful progress in reducing ozone concentrations with the lowest number of exceedances of ozone standards on record. Overall, the Valley continued to have more "Good" air quality days, and a record low number of only five "Unhealthy" days across all Valley counties, down from over 100 days just ten years ago, and hundreds of days twenty years ago. These improvements bring the Valley closer than ever to attaining the remaining federal health-based standards, and represents real improvements in the air we breathe and tangible health benefits for the communities we serve.

This progress would not be possible without strong partnerships between the District, local residents, community organizations, businesses, agricultural leaders, and state and federal partners and the collaboration that remains the foundation of our air quality improvement success. Together, we are advancing innovative solutions, expanding access to cleaner technologies, and working to ensure that progress reaches communities throughout the Valley.

Central to our clean air mission is our commitment to providing exceptional service to the public. Whether assisting residents in accessing incentive programs, supporting businesses in navigating regulatory requirements, or delivering timely and transparent air quality information, the District remains focused on being responsive, accessible, and solution-oriented. At its core, our work is about helping Valley families, workers, farmers, businesses, and communities thrive in a healthier environment.

While we are proud of the collective progress we've achieved, we recognize that significant challenges remain. The Valley continues to face some of the most complex air quality conditions in the nation, shaped by geography, climate, and the need to continue making air quality improvements in a manner that strengthens the economic vitality of the region and uplifts our communities. Additionally, emerging challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity and the impacts of wildfires, will require thoughtful planning, continued innovation, and coordinated action among all stakeholders.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum in partnership with Valley residents and stakeholders. Through continued collaboration, strategic investment, and a shared commitment to clean air, we will keep moving forward toward a cleaner future for everyone.



SAMIR SHEIKH
Executive Director, Air Pollution Control Officer

Governing Board



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Tulare County



Vice Chair
BOBBY MACAULAY
Madera County



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Merced County



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Kings County



JOSE RODRIGUEZ
City of Madera



ALEXANDER C. SHERRIFFS, M.D.
Appointed by Governor



LIZ WYNN
City of Visalia

About the District

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is a regional public health agency responsible for air quality management in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley air basin: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern.

The District works with local, state and federal government agencies, the business community, community-based organizations and the residents of the Valley to reduce emissions to improve air quality.

THE DISTRICT'S MISSION

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is a public health agency whose mission is to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies. Our Core Values have been designed to ensure that our mission is accomplished through commonsense, feasible measures that are based on sound science.

THE DISTRICT'S VISION

The District's vision is healthful air that meets or exceeds air quality standards for all Valley residents. The District is a leader in air pollution control. Valley residents take pride in our collective efforts to continuously improve air quality.

\$409,849,192
CLEAN AIR GRANTS

\$78,467,672
DISTRICT OPERATIONS

2025-26
DISTRICT
BUDGET

The District's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. In the past fiscal year, nearly 85% of the District's overall budget contained funds specifically for voluntary grants and incentives for Valley residents, businesses, municipalities and others. This significant state and federal funding for voluntary clean air projects would not be possible without the many District partners.

CORE VALUES

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The District shall continue to strive to protect the health of Valley residents through efforts to meet health-based state and federal ambient air-quality standards, based on science and prioritized where possible using health-risk reduction strategies.

ACTIVE & EFFECTIVE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS WHILE SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE VALLEY'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & GROW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS

District staff shall work diligently to adopt and fully implement cost-effective air pollution-control measures, provide meaningful incentives for reducing emissions, and develop creative alternatives for achieving emissions reductions.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

District staff shall work to provide excellent customer service for stakeholders in activities including: rule and plan development; permitting and emissions inventory functions; compliance activities; financial and grant-funding transactions; and responses to public complaints and inquiries.

INGENUITY AND INNOVATION

The District values innovation and ingenuity in meeting the challenges we face. Examples of this spirit of innovation include developing programs that provide new incentives for emissions reductions, and providing alternate compliance strategies that supplement traditional regulatory efforts and generate more emissions reductions than could otherwise be reasonably obtained.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

The District serves, and is ultimately accountable to, the people of the Valley for the wise and appropriate use of public resources, and for accomplishing the District's mission with integrity and honesty.

OPEN & TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCESSES

The District shall continue to provide meaningful opportunities for public input and be responsive to all public inquiries.

RECOGNITION OF THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The Valley's meteorology, topography and economy differ significantly from those in other jurisdictions. Although it is valuable to review and evaluate efforts of other agencies, we must consistently look for solutions that fully consider the Valley's unique needs.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The District works to continually improve its internal operations and processes, and strives to streamline District operations through optimally utilizing information technology and human resources.

EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

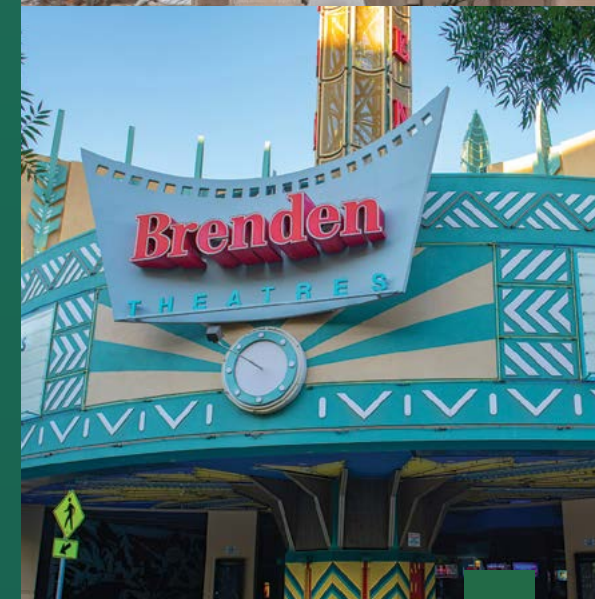
The District shall continually strive to efficiently use all resources and to minimize costs associated with District functions.

RESPECT FOR THE OPINIONS & INTERESTS OF ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS

The District shall respect the interests and opinions of all Valley residents and fully consider these opinions, seeking collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies, agriculture, businesses, community groups and residents in carrying out the District's mission.

ROBUST PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION ON VALLEY AIR QUALITY PROGRESS & CONTINUING AIR QUALITY EFFORTS

As we move forward in achieving our mission, the District shall continue its ongoing efforts to educate the public about air quality, and the significant clean air investments and air quality progress that have been made in the Valley.



Protecting Health Through Cleaner Air

Clean air is fundamental to the health and well-being of all San Joaquin Valley residents. The air people breathe each day has a direct impact on their quality of life, affecting families, communities, and the long-term health and economic viability of the region.

Extensive scientific research has shown that air pollution is linked to serious health effects. Fine particulate matter and ozone, two of the Valley's most persistent pollutants, are associated with respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), as well as cardiovascular diseases including heart attacks and strokes. Emerging research also suggests potential connections between long-term exposure to air pollution and neurological conditions, including dementia.

While air pollution affects everyone, exposure is not evenly distributed. Where people live, work, and go to school plays a significant role in determining the air they breathe. Communities located near major roadways, freight corridors, and industrial sources often experience higher levels of pollution, particularly from diesel emissions. As a result, some Valley residents face a disproportionate share of the health burden.

Understanding these impacts underscores the importance of continued efforts to improve air quality and protect public health across all communities in the Valley.

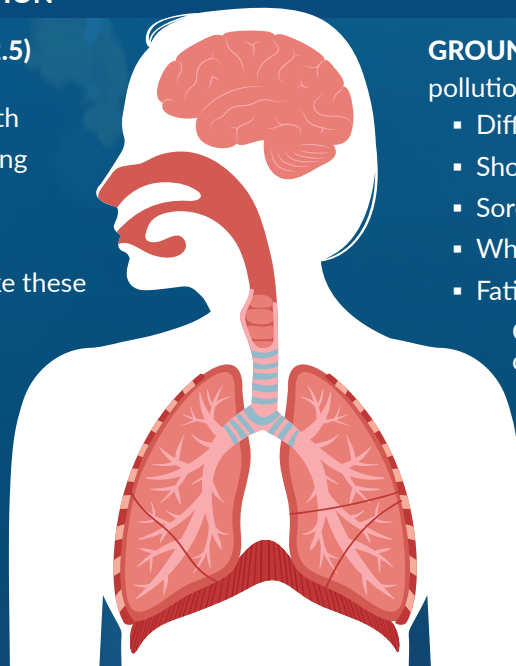
EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

FINE PARTICLE (PM2.5) pollution can cause:

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing, coughing
- Chest pain
- Fatigue

Fine particles can make these conditions **worse**:

- Cardiovascular and heart disease
- Asthma and COPD
- Dementia
- Neurological Disorders



GROUND-LEVEL OZONE pollution can cause:

- Difficulty breathing deeply
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Wheezing, coughing
- Fatigue

Ozone can make these conditions **worse**:

- Asthma and COPD
- Emphysema

A Historic Year for Clean Air Progress in the Valley

In 2025, the San Joaquin Valley experienced the cleanest air quality conditions ever recorded in the region's history. Based on monitoring data, every air monitoring site across the Valley recorded levels below the federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard of 35.4 micrograms per cubic meter. For the first time since monitoring began, the entire region met this benchmark, marking a transformative moment in the Valley's decades-long journey to improve air quality.

This achievement reflects more than a single year of favorable conditions, it represents sustained progress built over generations of coordinated action by Valley residents, businesses, farmers, agencies, and community groups. In 2025, the Valley experienced the fewest exceedences of the daily PM2.5 standard, the lowest number ever recorded, while continuing its unprecedented streak of zero exceedences of the higher 65 µg/m³ threshold. These results signal meaningful and measurable improvements in wintertime air quality, a time of year that has historically posed some of the Valley's greatest challenges.

Air quality improvements were evident in the everyday experience of Valley residents. The region recorded the second-highest number of "Good" Air Quality Index (AQI) days on record, alongside the lowest number of "Unhealthy" days ever observed—just five days reached that category. Compared to past decades, when unhealthy air days were far more common, this shift represents a profound change in the health and quality of life of residents across the Valley.

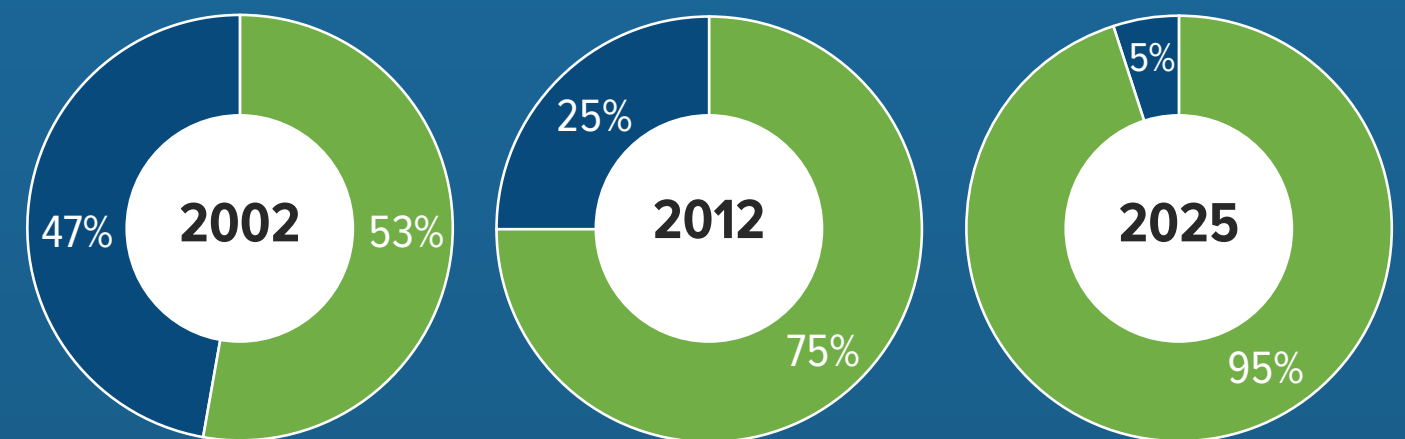
Ozone trends further underscore the significance of this progress. For the second time on record, all Valley monitoring sites achieved levels at or below the 84 parts per billion (ppb) federal standard. At the same time, the Valley recorded the fewest exceedance days ever for the 84 ppb, 75 ppb, and 70 ppb ozone standards, while continuing to maintain zero exceedences of the former 1-hour ozone standard. These milestones highlight continued progress in addressing summertime air quality challenges.

The Valley's Federal design values, the official metric used to assess compliance with federal standards and the average value over a 3-year period, tell the same story. Data for 2025 show the lowest design values ever recorded for both ozone and PM2.5, continuing a steady downward trend across the region. Compared to historical peak levels, design values have declined dramatically, with reductions ranging from approximately 29% to 60%.

These historic results are the product of decades of commitment, innovation, and collaboration. Cleaner vehicles, stronger controls, advancements in agricultural practices, and cleaner consumer technologies have all contributed to this progress. Behind these numbers are the collective efforts of public agencies, local businesses, community partners, and Valley residents working together toward a common goal.

While challenges remain and continued progress is essential to meet increasingly stringent federal standards, 2025 stands as a defining moment, demonstrating that meaningful, large-scale air quality improvement is not only possible, but achievable through sustained commitment and partnership.

DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING FEDERAL HEALTH STANDARDS YEAR-ROUND





Understanding Emissions The Foundation of Clean Air Improvements

Each year, the District collects and processes emissions data from more than 6,000 facilities and other sources throughout the San Joaquin Valley. This detailed information is used to calculate annual emissions for individual facilities and is reported to CARB as part of California's statewide emissions inventory.

This comprehensive inventory is the backbone of the District's air quality planning efforts. It provides the data needed to develop attainment plans, design effective emission control strategies, measure progress, and ensure regulatory accountability.

OZONE: A SECONDARY POLLUTANT WITH REAL IMPACTS

Ozone is a major component of the Valley's summertime smog and poses serious risks to human health. Unlike pollutants emitted directly from a smokestack or tailpipe, ozone forms in the atmosphere through chemical reactions. When oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) interact in the presence of sunlight, ozone is created. Because ozone formation is driven by these precursor pollutants, reducing NOx and VOC emissions is essential to improving summertime air quality. However, because ozone formation in the Valley is largely NOx-limited, reducing nitrogen oxide emissions provides the most effective path to lowering ozone levels.

WHY NOx MATTERS

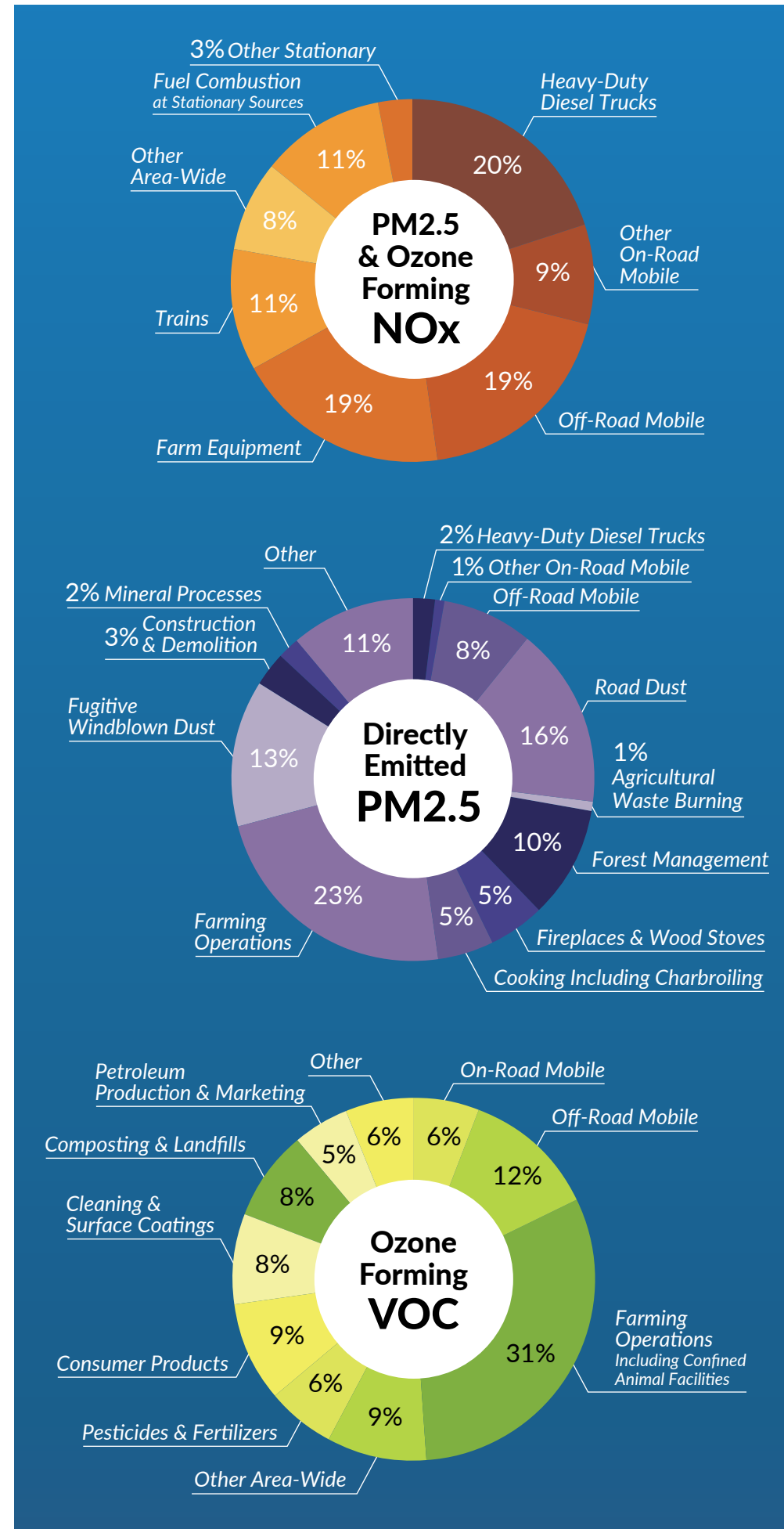
Given the Valley's unique geography, climate, and atmospheric chemistry, NOx has become a critical focus of both the District and CARB in addressing ozone and PM2.5 challenges. Reducing NOx emissions, primarily from mobile sources, delivers multiple air quality benefits, making it one of the most impactful strategies for improving public health and moving the Valley toward attainment.

PARTICULATE MATTER: PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCES

Particulate matter (PM) consists of tiny solid or liquid particles suspended in the air. These include:

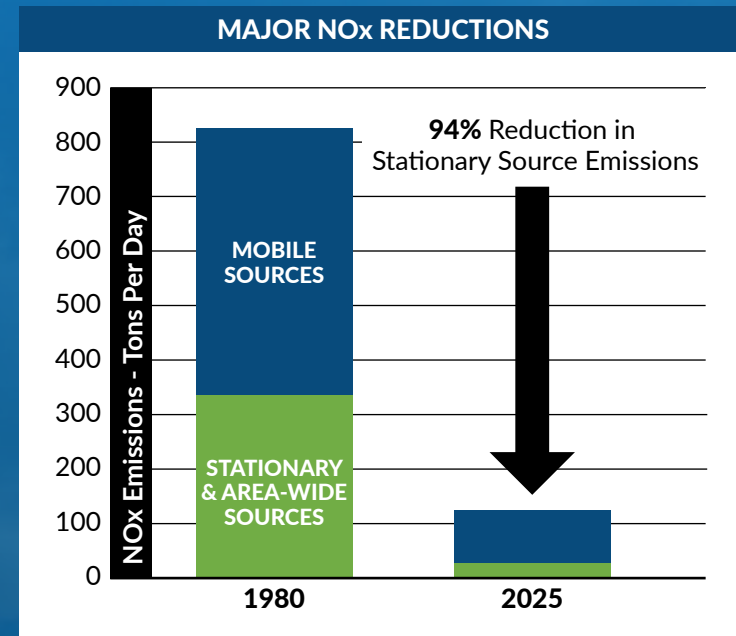
- PM2.5 – fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter
- PM10 – particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter

Some particulate matter is emitted directly into the air, such as dust or soot (known as primary PM). However, a significant portion of the Valley's PM10 and PM2.5 forms in the atmosphere through chemical reactions involving gaseous precursors like NOx. This is known as secondary PM.

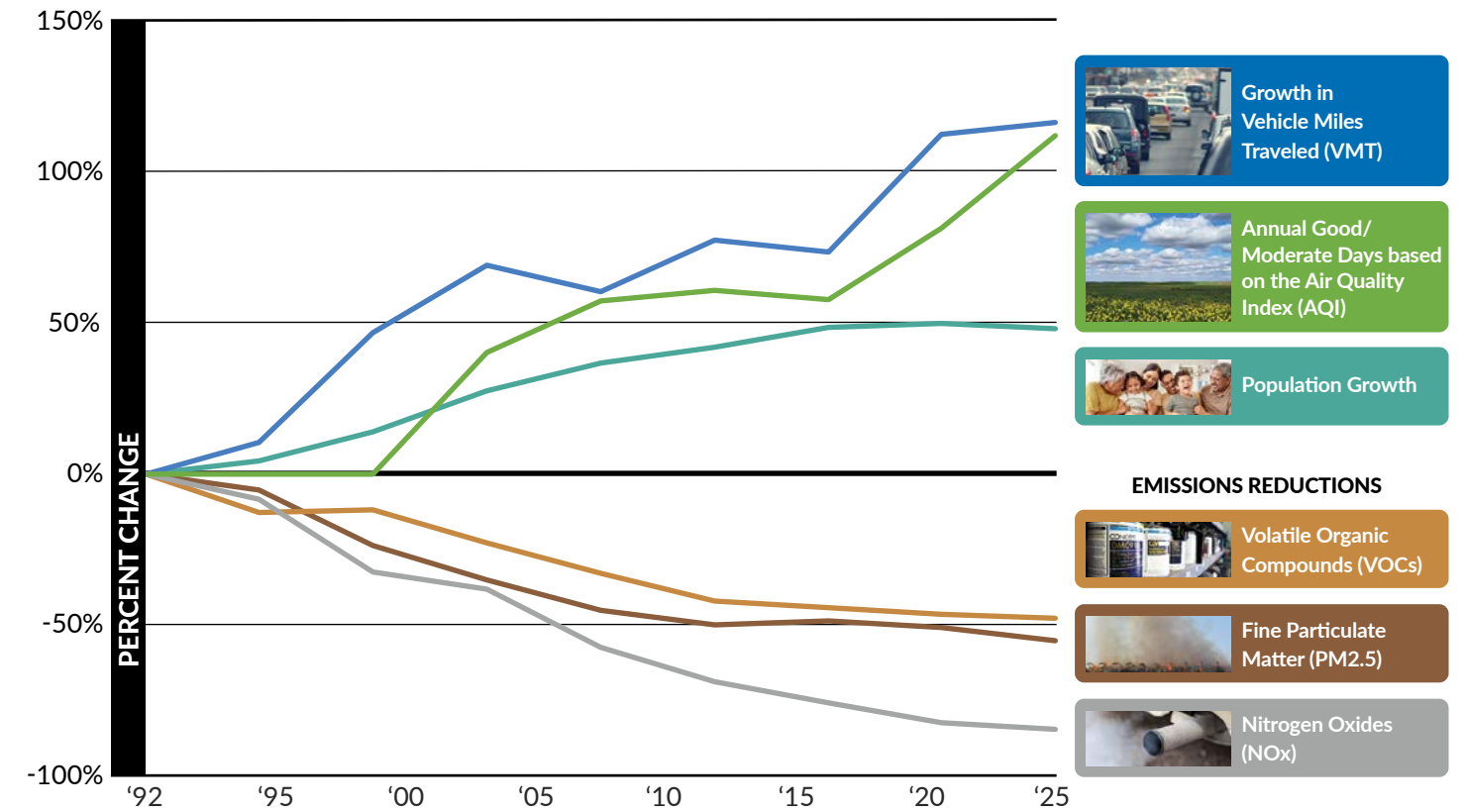


Progress Through Air Quality Partnerships

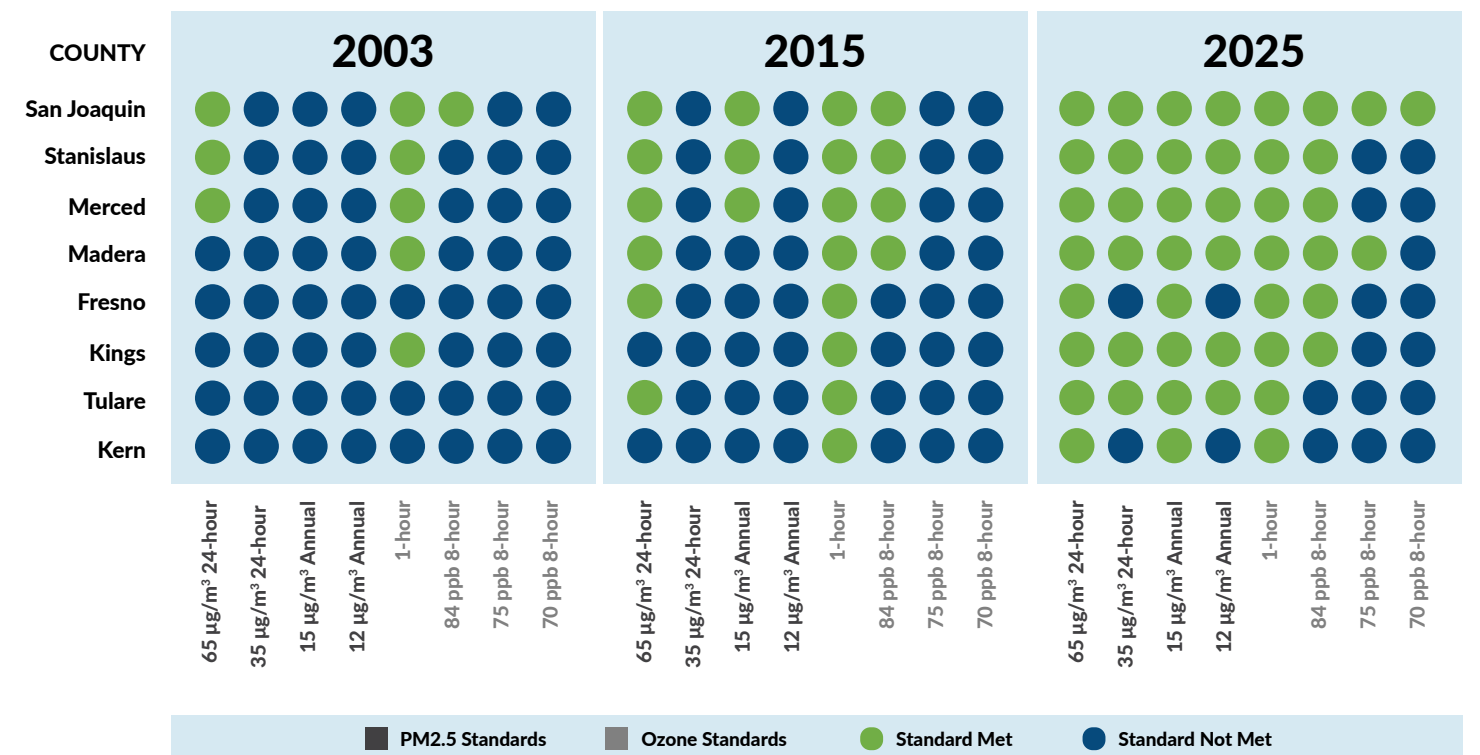
Over the past several decades, the San Joaquin Valley has made meaningful progress in improving air quality, even as the region has experienced significant population growth and increased economic activity. Strong local programs and regulations have substantially reduced emissions from stationary and area-wide sources, delivering measurable benefits for Valley residents and contributing to cleaner, healthier air. The Valley's ability to reduce emissions amid this growth reflects a sustained commitment to air quality improvements and a collaborative approach to problem-solving. Residents, businesses, farmers, public agencies, and community partners have all played a role in advancing innovative strategies, supporting cleaner technologies, and making strategic investments that drive real, on-the-ground improvements in air quality. These collective efforts have led to significant milestones and the meeting of several federal air quality standards, with most Valley counties meeting all or most of these federal standards. Yet despite these successes, significant challenges remain. Mobile sources, including cars, trucks, and mobile off-road equipment, continue to be the largest contributors to air pollution in the region and are primarily regulated at the state and federal level. Addressing these emissions will require continued commitment, sustained investment, and coordinated action across all levels of government.



AIR QUALITY IMPROVES EVEN WITH DRAMATIC GROWTH



PROGRESS IN MEETING FEDERAL PM_{2.5} & OZONE STANDARDS



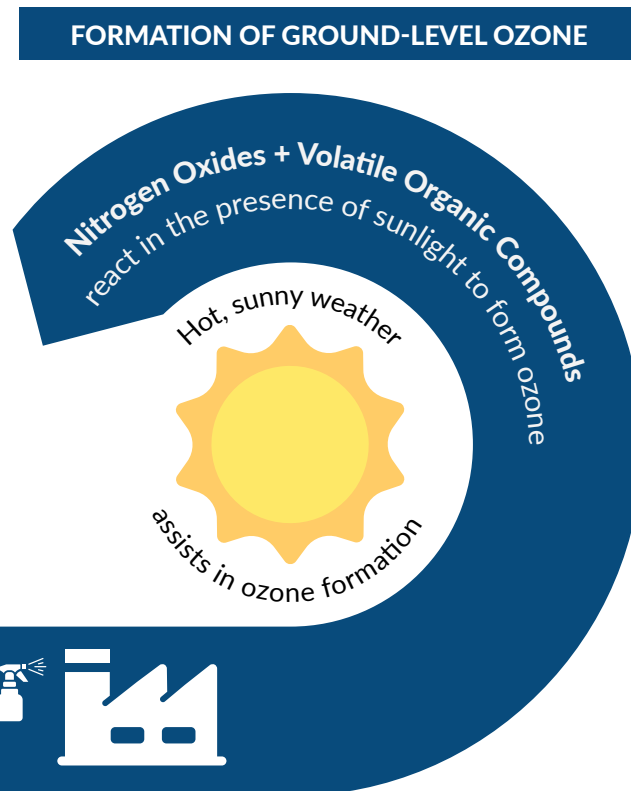


Ozone Progress Measurable Gains, Continued Commitment

Ground-level ozone remains a persistent air quality challenge in the Valley. Unlike particulate matter, ozone is not directly emitted but forms through chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight and heat, conditions common during the Valley's long hot summers. The region's geography further complicates this challenge. Surrounded by mountains, pollutants can become trapped, while abundant sunshine accelerates ozone formation.

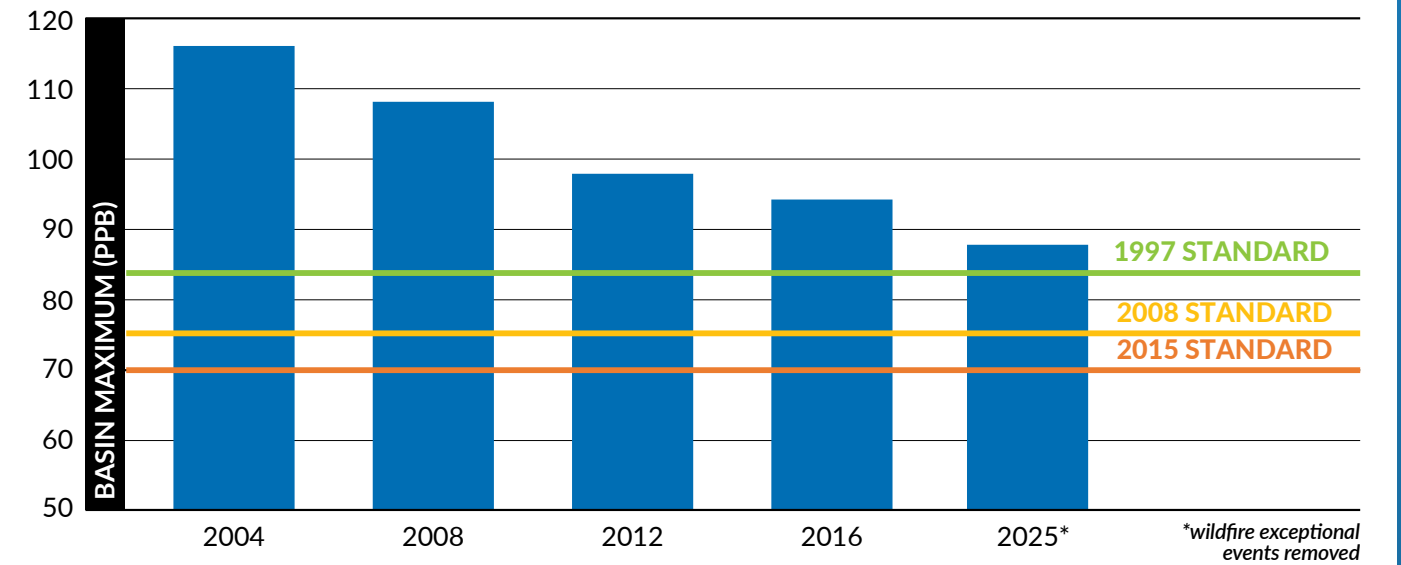
Despite these challenges, the Valley has made significant improvements as a result of decades of coordinated local, state, and federal efforts, including strong regulatory programs, cleaner fuels and engines, and targeted incentive investments. Still, achieving and maintaining federal standards will require continued progress, particularly in reducing emissions from mobile sources, which remain the largest contributor and are primarily regulated at the state and federal levels.

Through sustained collaboration and innovation, the Valley continues to move closer to a future with cleaner air and healthier communities.

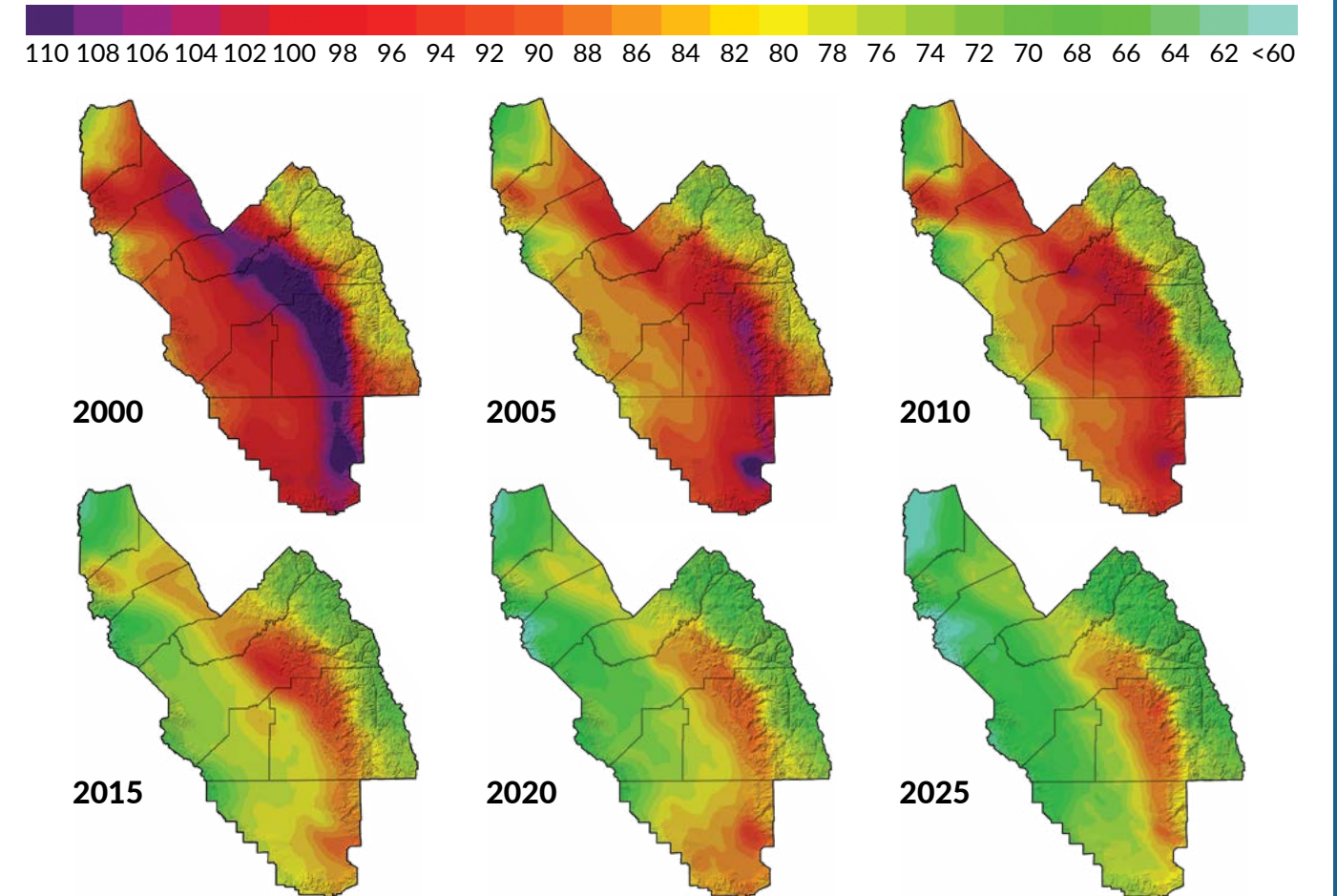


Ozone Levels Continue to Decline

FEDERAL 8-HR OZONE DESIGN VALUE PROGRESS



FEDERAL 8-HOUR OZONE DESIGN VALUES (PPB) ILLUSTRATE IMPROVEMENT OVER TIME



Understanding & Reducing Fine Particulate Matter

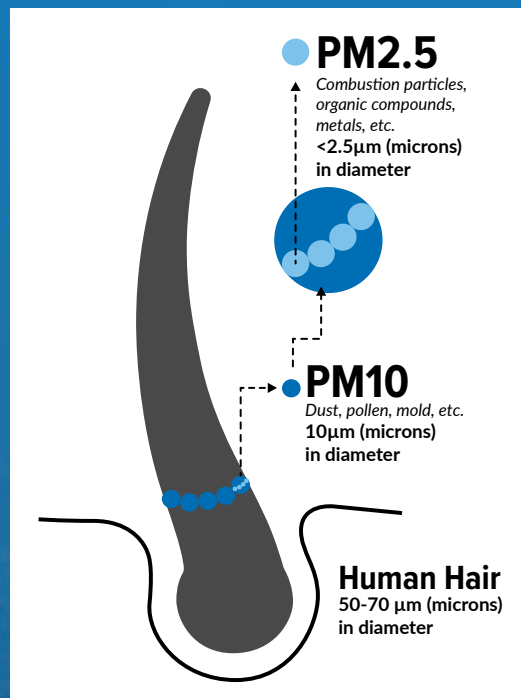
Fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, remains one of the most complex and challenging air pollutants affecting the San Joaquin Valley. These microscopic particles, measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter, are made up of a diverse mixture of aerosols, liquids, and solids, including nitrates, sulfates, organic carbon, black carbon, soil dust, and trace metals. Their small size allows them to penetrate deep into the lungs, making them a significant concern for public health.

PM2.5 in the Valley originates from a wide range of sources. Human activities, such as vehicle emissions, residential wood burning, cooking, and industrial operations all contribute to particulate levels along with natural sources. Among the various components, organic carbon and ammonium nitrate are the most significant contributors to PM2.5 concentrations.

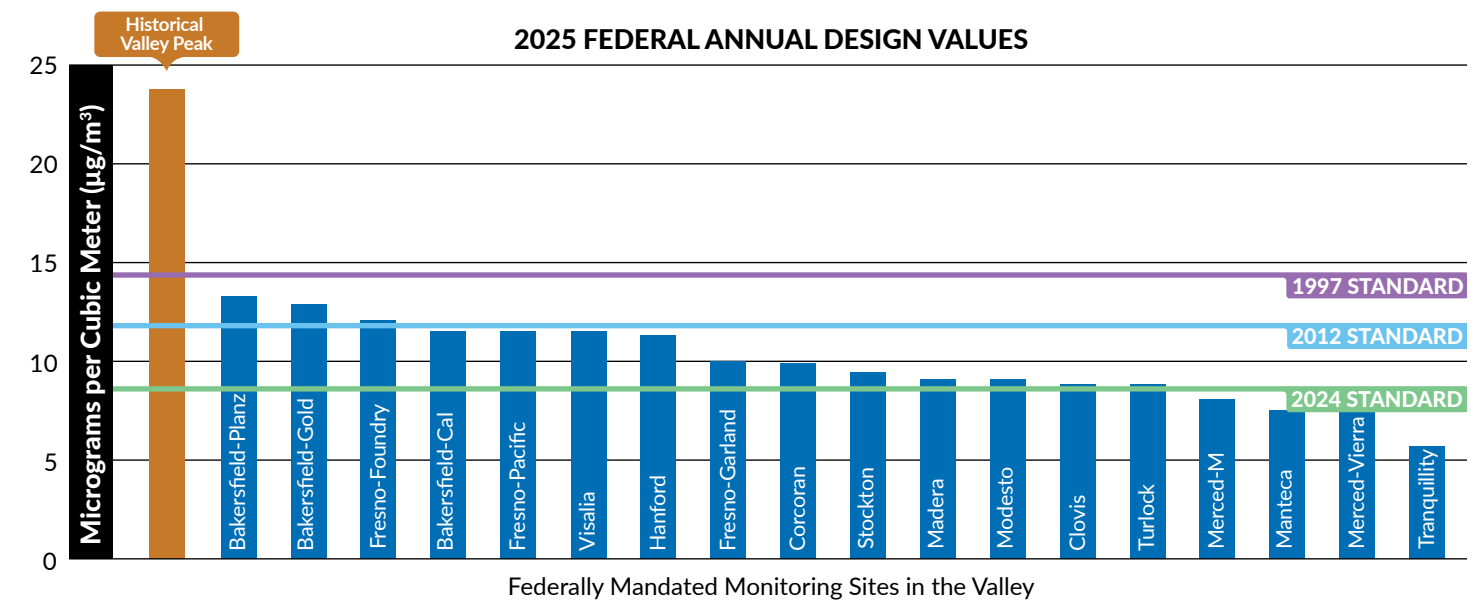
Organic carbon is primarily emitted directly from sources like residential wood burning, food preparation, and combustion engines. Ammonium nitrate, by contrast, forms in the atmosphere through chemical reactions between ammonia and nitrogen oxides (NOx), which are largely produced by fuel combustion from mobile sources and industrial activities. This secondary formation process adds another layer of complexity to addressing PM2.5 pollution in the Valley.

The formation of higher concentrations of PM2.5 in the Valley is most common during the winter season, when atmospheric chemistry conditions are conducive to the formation of secondary PM2.5 and when temperature inversions are prevalent in the evenings, trapping emissions near the surface across the bowl of the Valley. The combination of these mechanisms drives much of the increased concentrations of PM2.5 during the winter season.

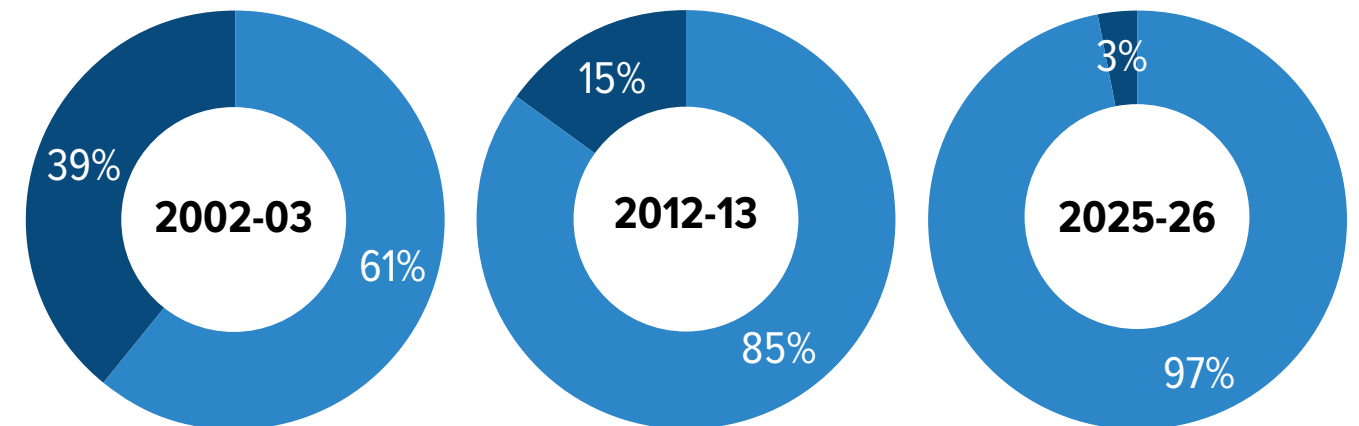
Despite these challenges, sustained and coordinated efforts have led to meaningful progress. Through a combination of strong regulatory programs, targeted incentive funding, and statewide emission reduction strategies, the District and its partners have significantly reduced key PM2.5 components, including organic carbon and ammonium nitrate. These efforts have resulted in measurable improvements in air quality across the region.



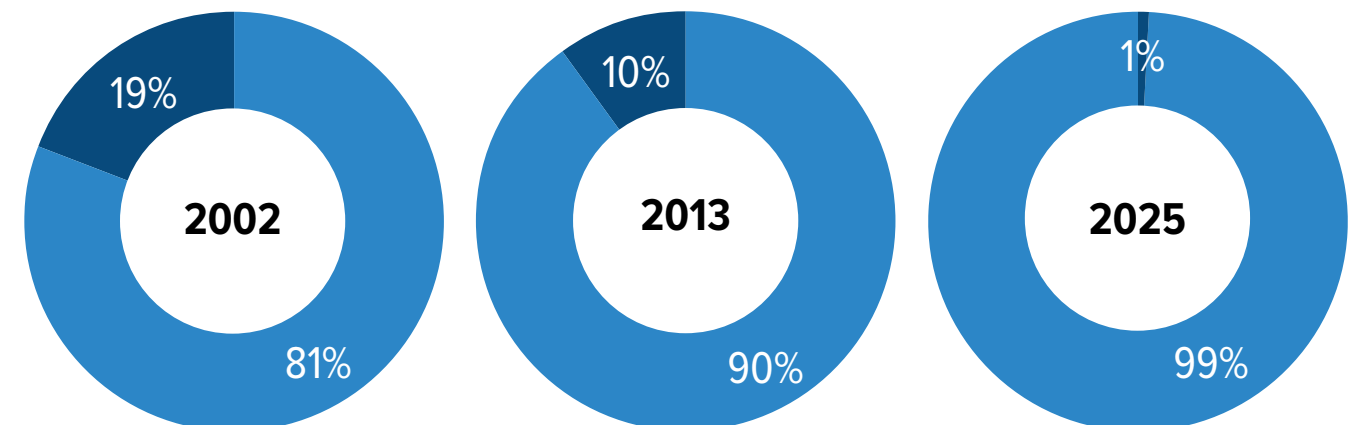
Particulate Matter Continues to Decline



DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING the FEDERAL DAILY PM2.5 STANDARD DURING WINTER MONTHS (NOV-FEB)



DAYS MEETING vs DAYS EXCEEDING the FEDERAL DAILY PM2.5 STANDARD EACH YEAR





Protecting Public Health Reducing Residential Woodsmoke in the Valley

During the winter months, residential wood burning is a significant contributor to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution in Valley neighborhoods. Smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves contains fine particles and toxic compounds that can aggravate asthma, trigger respiratory illness, and contribute to long-term cardiovascular and lung disease.

To address these impacts, the District has implemented a nationally recognized residential woodsmoke reduction strategy. Through a combination of strong regulations, financial incentives, public education, enforcement, and partnerships, the District has developed a comprehensive approach to reduce emissions and protect public health during the winter air pollution season.

Central to this effort is Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) along with the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-Out Incentive Program, and a robust public outreach campaign encouraging residents to reduce wood burning. These efforts focus on the period when pollution levels are typically highest, from November through February.

This strategy has delivered measurable results. The Valley attained the federal annual PM2.5 standard of 15 µg/m³ for the 2022–2024 period, marking a major milestone. In 2025, the region recorded some of the lowest PM2.5 levels in its history, reflecting continued progress toward cleaner air.

A Long-Standing Commitment to Reducing Woodsmoke

The District's residential woodsmoke reduction strategy has evolved over more than three decades.

Rule 4901 was first adopted in 1993, establishing early controls, such as restrictions on certain fuel types and the sale of used wood heaters. Over time, the rule has been strengthened to achieve greater emission reductions.

Amendments in 2003 introduced mandatory curtailments during unhealthy air quality conditions. Additional updates in 2008, 2014, and 2019 lowered curtailment thresholds and expanded "No Burn" days for high-polluting devices.

The 2019 updates further strengthened the rule by adding requirements for fireplace remodeling, restricting new installations, and enhancing emission standards.

In recognition of these efforts, the District received a national Best Practices award from the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) in 2022 for its innovative residential woodsmoke reduction program.

Helping Residents Transition to Cleaner Heating

The Fireplace and Woodstove Change-Out Program is a key component of the District's strategy, helping residents replace older, high-polluting devices with cleaner alternatives.

Through the program, residents can work with local retailers to purchase approved devices, such as natural gas inserts, freestanding stoves, or electric heat pumps. Incentives of up to \$5,000 are available for replacements, with up to \$750 offered for permanent device removal without replacement.

To improve accessibility, additional funding is available for low-income households, and incentives can be applied directly at the point of sale.

The program continues to deliver strong results. In 2025 alone, the District invested nearly \$6.4 million to replace more than 1,700 devices. Since its inception, over \$71 million has supported the replacement of more than 32,200 wood-burning devices across the Valley.

"I found out about a program through the Air District that would provide several thousand dollars if I were to disable my fireplace and switch over to a heat pump. This is one real simple thing that we can do to improve our air quality and our quality of life in this Valley."

- Connie Young, retired registered nurse and Valley resident

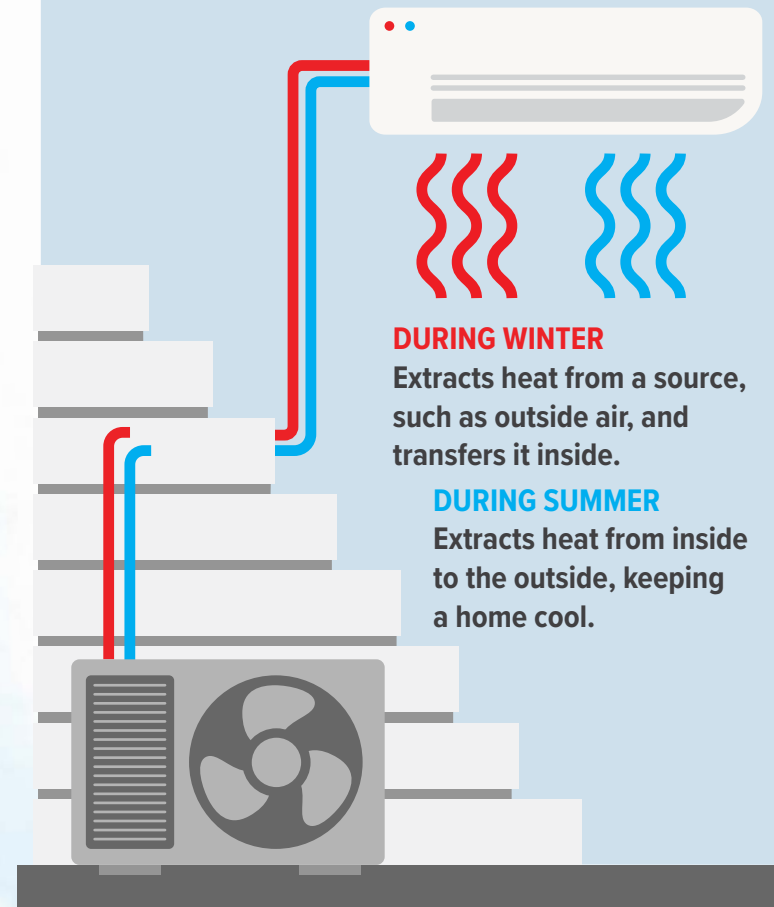
Educating and Engaging Valley Residents

Public awareness remains a critical part of reducing wintertime emissions. Each year, the District conducts a comprehensive outreach campaign centered on the message: "Choose NOT to Burn."

Through television, streaming, social media, billboards, and community outreach, the campaign highlights the health impacts of woodsmoke and encourages cleaner heating choices.

Residents can also access daily burn status through the Valley Air mobile app, valleyair.org/burnstatus, and the 1-800-SMOG-INFO hotline, ensuring timely information about residential wood burning.

HOW ELECTRIC HEAT PUMPS WORK





Wildfire Smoke A Continuing Challenge for Valley Air Quality

Over the past decade, the San Joaquin Valley has made measurable progress toward meeting federal air quality standards through significant emission reductions. However, wildfire smoke has emerged as a growing and unpredictable challenge.

Wildfires can generate pollution that exceeds emissions from industrial and mobile sources combined. Smoke can blanket the Valley for days or weeks, driving sharp increases in PM2.5 and ozone and posing serious health risks, especially for children, older adults, and those with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.

Recent wildfire seasons highlight the scale of this issue. Millions of acres have burned across California in recent years, with major fires, such as the August Complex, Dixie Fire, and more recent large-scale events impacting air quality. Smoke from these events has also contributed to high ozone levels during summer months.

These trends reflect broader climate change impacts, including drought, increased temperatures, and long-term fuel buildup, resulting in longer and more intense wildfire seasons. Addressing these impacts requires both continued emission reductions, continued state and federal action to address climate change and new strategies to protect public health.

Supporting Forest Management & Fuel Reduction

Reducing wildfire risks begins with improving forest health and limiting excess fuel buildup. The District supports strategies, such as mechanical thinning, vegetation management, and prescribed burning, to reduce wildfire intensity and smoke generation.

Through its smoke management program, the District works with local, state and federal land partners to evaluate burn plans and issue daily authorizations based on air quality and meteorological conditions. This ensures that fuel reduction projects are conducted safely and effectively while minimizing impacts on nearby communities.

State and federal agencies have also expanded efforts, including California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, which has a goal of treating one million acres annually, and the U.S. Forest Service national strategy to restore forest health and reduce wildfire risks across tens of millions of acres.

These coordinated efforts, spanning local land managers, fire safe councils, state agencies, and federal partners, represent an important step toward reducing the scale and severity of catastrophic wildfires in the years ahead.

Protecting Valley Residents During Smoke Events

Even with long-term mitigation efforts, wildfire smoke continues to impact Valley communities. The District's Wildfire Prevention and Response Program, another program nationally recognized by AAPCA, focuses on real-time communication, monitoring, and public guidance.

During smoke events, the District provides air quality updates, health advisories, and protective recommendations through its website, social media, and media partnerships. Visit valleyair.org/wildfires for real time data and guidance.

The District also deploys temporary monitors and works with partner agencies to expand air quality monitoring in affected areas, ensuring residents have access to timely and accurate information.

Clean Air Rooms:

Protecting Indoor Air During Smoke Events

To reduce indoor smoke exposure, the District launched the Clean Air Rooms Residential Air Filtration Program in 2022. Since then, more than \$3.6 million has supported the distribution of over 20,000 HEPA-rated air filtration devices to Valley residents, prioritizing underserved and low-income communities. These devices allow households to create designated "clean air rooms" that significantly reduce indoor particulate levels during smoke events.

The program is actively promoted during air quality alerts and provides a critical layer of protection during prolonged smoke exposure. Additional efforts in AB 617 communities have delivered over 7,000 filtration units, further expanding access in areas facing the greatest air quality challenges.

Clean Air Centers:

Community Safe Havens During Smoke Events

The District has also partnered with local communities to establish a network of Clean Air Centers, public spaces equipped with high-efficiency filtration systems that provide clean indoor air during smoke events.

More than 70 locations across the Valley, including libraries, community centers, and senior facilities, serve as accessible safe havens. Some operate continuously, while others activate during smoke events.

An interactive online map, maintained in partnership with CARB, helps residents locate nearby centers and access information on hours, services, and accessibility. These centers play a vital role in protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring equitable access to clean indoor air.

Looking Ahead

As the effects of climate change become more widespread throughout the nation, wildfires remain one of the most complex challenges facing air quality management in California. While progress continues in reducing emissions from traditional sources, wildfire smoke requires coordinated, multi-agency solutions. Through partnerships, public health programs, and continued innovation, the District is working to reduce wildfire risks and protect Valley residents. Ongoing investments in forest management and community protection will be essential to sustaining air quality progress in the years ahead.

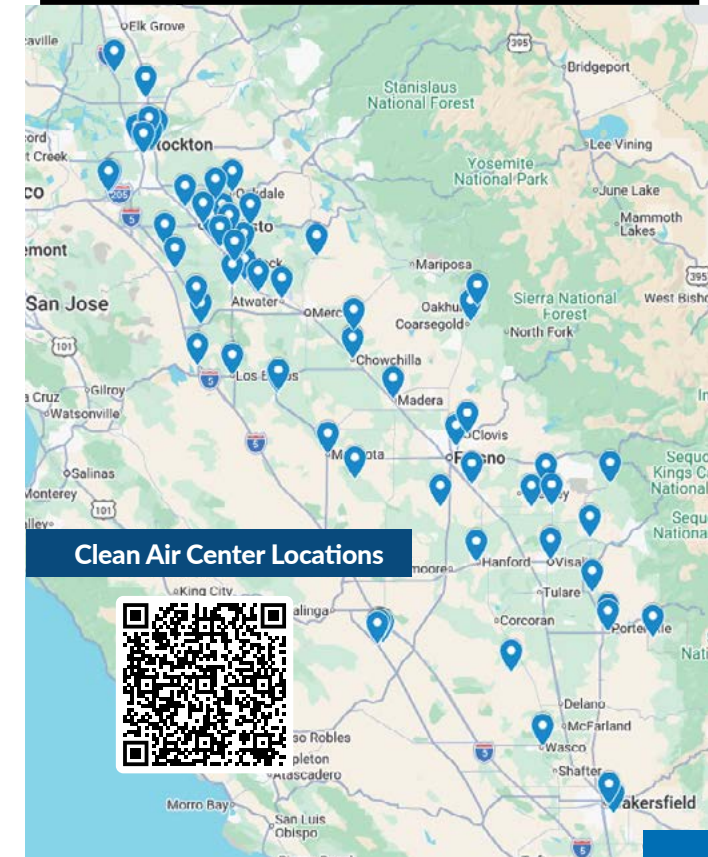
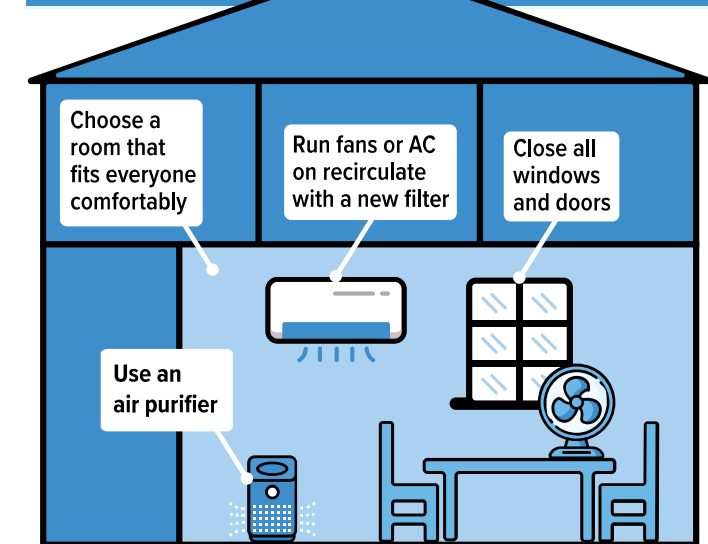
REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE

CREATE A CLEAN AIR ROOM
Air purifiers work best when doors and windows are tightly sealed.

RUN YOUR HVAC SYSTEM
Replace the filters more frequently than usual.

LOCATE A CLEAN AIR CENTER
Clean Air Centers provide a safe place with air filtration systems during periods of heavy smoke.
valleyair.org/cleanaircenters

WEAR AN N95 MASK
If you must be outdoors, N95 masks can provide protection from wildfire smoke when properly fitted.





San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Planning for Further Air Quality Progress

For decades, the District has led the way in advancing successive generations of emission control strategies for stationary and area sources, while CARB has implemented some of the most stringent mobile source standards in the world. Together, these coordinated efforts represent one of the most ambitious and forward-looking air quality programs in the nation.

Through this comprehensive framework of stationary, area, and mobile source controls, ozone and PM2.5 precursor emissions in the Valley have declined to historic lows, delivering measurable improvements in air quality and tangible public health benefits for the communities we serve.

This progress reflects more than regulatory achievement. It is the result of sustained leadership, bold and innovative policy development, strong collaboration with partner agencies, residents, local businesses, community-based organizations and agricultural community, and continued investment in transformative clean air technologies. Building on this legacy of progress, the District continues to reach critical milestones in advancing air quality improvement.

In 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took final action to approve the District's 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard, a significant affirmation of the Valley's long-term progress. Most recently, in January 2026, EPA finalized a clean data determination for the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard, formally recognizing that the Valley has attained the standard. This achievement marks another pivotal step forward in protecting public health and strengthening the region's environmental foundation.

The District is now developing a comprehensive maintenance plan to EPA to support their formal redesignation of attainment for the 1997 PM2.5 standard, ensuring these gains are preserved for future generations. At the same time, the District is proactively advancing innovative strategies to address remaining planning challenges and sustain continued progress toward attainment across all standards, particularly ozone and PM2.5.

Additionally, on April 25, 2024, the District adopted the Ozone Contingency Measure State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standards.

EPA proposed to approve the contingency measure submission for the 2008 ozone standard. The District is waiting for EPA action on the 2015 8-Hour ozone standard portion of the contingency plan, which is expected in late 2026.

In September 2025, EPA issued a final finding of failure to attain for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. As a result, CARB's Smog Check Contingency Measure was triggered, resulting in the California smog check program exemption changing from eight or less model-year old vehicles to seven or less model-year old vehicles beginning on January 1, 2027.

Upcoming Challenges for Valley Attainment Planning Efforts

Attainment plans rely on a combination of stationary source measures, primarily implemented by the District, and mobile source measures developed by CARB under federal waiver authority. Together, these measures are essential for meeting stringent national standards for PM2.5 and ozone. Both pollutants are driven largely by oxides of nitrogen (NOx), making NOx reduction the central focus of attainment strategies. In the Valley, mobile sources account for the vast majority of NOx emissions, underscoring the critical role of mobile source emission reduction programs.

Under the Clean Air Act, CARB has unique authority to regulate certain on-road and off-road mobile sources, contingent on EPA approval of waivers. The District's attainment strategy has more recently depended on these federally approved measures. However, during the first half of 2025, several key mobile source waivers were either withdrawn by CARB or disapproved through federal action, creating significant complexity for achieving ozone and PM2.5 attainment goals.

CARB, in coordination with the District, is developing a revised Ozone Plan to address recent federal actions affecting mobile source programs. The updated plan is expected to include a "black box" provision that provides additional time for CARB to develop and implement updated mobile source strategies to address the shortfall of emission reductions resulting from the 2025 waiver actions.

Additionally, CARB and the District are currently working with EPA to support approval of the five-year attainment date extension request that was originally submitted with the 2024 PM2.5 Plan. Approval of the five-year extension is critical because, without it, the District will likely be required to develop a CAA Section 189(d) plan, commonly referred to as a five percent plan. Such a plan would require annual reductions of five percent in direct PM2.5 or PM2.5 precursor emissions until the Valley reaches attainment. Achieving reductions of this magnitude would be extremely challenging given that the control measures already in place are comprehensive and among the most stringent in the nation.

2025 VALLEY EMISSION REDUCTIONS			
	PLAN COMMITMENTS	REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED	PERFORMANCE
NOx	11.36 tons per day	23.18 tons per day	104% above target
VOC	40.46 tons per day	52.75 tons per day	30% above target
SOx	0.83 tons per day	5.19 tons per day	525% above target
PM2.5	8.28 tons per day	18.40 tons per day of PM equivalent	122.2% above target including precursors

The table demonstrates that the District has achieved emission reductions exceeding plan commitments across all relevant pollutants.

Improving Air Quality Through Clean Air Measures

For over three decades, the District has led with innovative regulatory strategies that have significantly improved air quality and public health. The District's forward-looking approaches to municipal development projects, residential wood burning, conservation management practices, and agricultural burning have become benchmarks across California and the nation. However, the District cannot achieve this level of success without the financial investments, meaningful engagement, and close collaboration with residents, local businesses, agricultural community, community-based organizations, and partner government agencies. Despite the significant emission reductions from local rules, the District continues to look for areas of improvement to advance the Valley's progress toward clean air.

The District encourages public participation in the rule development process. Interested parties may sign up to receive email notifications regarding regulatory development activities through the District's website at www.valleyair.org/sign-up. The District is currently developing and evaluating the following rules:

RULE 4901 (WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACES AND WOOD-BURNING HEATERS)

The purpose of Rule 4901 is to limit particulate matter emissions from wood-burning fireplaces, wood-burning heaters, and outdoor wood-burning devices. Based on commitments in the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, the District has begun a rule development process to further strengthen the District's residential wood smoke reduction strategy by extending the wood-burning season through the end of March. The District hosted a public scoping meeting on April 30, 2025, to present, discuss, and receive feedback on potential amendments. The District plans to schedule additional stakeholder events in 2026 as the rule is developed.

RULE 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces)

The District began the process of amending Rule 4905 to extend the emissions fee option for manufactured home units to September 30, 2030, without changing the fee structure - allowing more time for technology development and incentivizing faster deployment of compliant units. The District held a workshop for public input on January 21, 2026 and obtained Governing Board approval in March 2026.

RULE 4101 (Visible Emissions)

Rule 4101 restricts the emissions of visible air contaminants to the atmosphere. Visible emissions are evaluated by a certified observer in accordance with EPA Method 9, which requires training and a routine certification process conducted by CARB. In August 2023, EPA authorized ALT-152 as an approved alternate method for certifying qualified observers of visible emissions. The District held a public workshop on February 24, 2026, to solicit public input and the Governing Board adopted the item in April 2026. Approval of the amendments will provide District staff and regulated community a more efficient and less costly method of obtaining the certification.

FENCE-LINE MONITORING FOR METAL RECYCLING FACILITIES

Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 2851 (AB 2851), the District is required to develop and adopt air quality monitoring and community notification requirements for metal shredding facilities. The District is coordinating closely with the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to ensure monitoring standards and airborne contaminant threshold levels are established in accordance with state guidance. The rule will be developed through a public process, with opportunities for the public and stakeholders to provide input, comments, and suggestions.

RULES 4601 (Architectural Coatings), 4603 (Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products, Plastic Parts and Products, and Pleasure Crafts), 4604 (Can and Coil Coating Operations), 4653 (Adhesives and Sealants), & 4663 (Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal)

Rules 4601, 4603, 4604, 4653, and 4663 reduce VOC emissions from various sources of coatings and solvent usage. These rules contain various VOC limits that restrict the VOC content of coatings or solvents, and also limit VOC emissions through requiring certain application equipment and clean up/disposal methods. The District is currently undergoing a rule development and will finalize the process to implement contingency measures to lower VOC limits within each of these five rules, upon EPA approval of the 2024 Ozone Contingency Measure SIP Revision.

RULE 4550 (Conservation Management Practices)

Rule 4550 was the first rule in the nation to reduce fugitive particulate emissions from agricultural operations through the required reduction in the number of passes through a field by agricultural equipment and through the implementation of other Conservation Management Practices (CMPs). Per commitments in the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, the District is currently undergoing a robust rule evaluation process in collaboration with industry stakeholders, USDA-NRCS, and other agencies to identify opportunities to reduce emissions from fallowed land to reduce dust from agricultural operations.

COMMERCIAL CHARBROILING

The District is currently analyzing additional emission reduction opportunities by implementing an incentive based control strategy through the District's Restaurant Charbroiler Technology Partnership Program. District staff are also leading working group meetings with numerous air districts throughout the state to refine the restaurant emission calculations, engage stakeholders (vendors and owners), and examine building infrastructure and technological barriers to controlling emissions from commercial charbroiling operations.

Partnering with Agriculture for Cleaner Air

Home to the world's most productive farmland, the San Joaquin Valley grows more than 250 crops across 4.5 million acres. Agriculture is central to the region's economy, culture, and way of life. Working alongside farmers and industry partners, the District continues to advance cleaner technologies and sustainable practices that reduce emissions while supporting the productivity and long-term success of Valley agriculture.

Grant Programs Leading the Way and Setting a National Standard for Success

Through sustained local, state and federal investments, the District has been able to partner with the agricultural community to implement a wide range of grant programs that encourage the early adoption of cleaner technologies and innovative practices. Continued funding will be essential to build on this progress and ensure Valley farmers have the tools needed to reduce emissions while maintaining the productivity that drives the region's economy.

"Working together we're proving that agriculture and clean air go hand in hand. With the right support from our local, state and federal partners, my growers can continue adopting cleaner equipment and practices that protect public health while keeping agriculture strong in the Valley."

- Manuel Cunha Jr., President Nisei Farmers League

Tractor Replacement Program

Off-road agricultural equipment remains an emission source with tremendous potential for emissions reductions. Many Valley growers, faced with increasing farming costs, continue to operate older diesel tractors and equipment for decades, often using Tier 0, Tier 1, or Tier 2 engines that produce significantly higher emissions. To address this challenge, the District's Tractor Replacement Program helps farmers retire older equipment and replace it with newer, cleaner technologies. Since 2009, the District has facilitated the replacement of more than 14,900 high-polluting tractors, supported by over \$1.05 billion in funding. In 2025 alone, more than 1,200 tractors were replaced, representing over \$119 million in new clean technology investments across Valley farms.

To ensure access for farms of all sizes, the program offers funding based on operation size. Smaller agricultural operations may receive up to 80% of replacement costs, while medium and large operations may receive up to 70% and 60%, respectively. To further accelerate the transition to cleaner technologies, the program offers up to 85% of the cost of all-electric tractors, regardless of operation size. These incentives help growers modernize their fleets while delivering significant emission reductions throughout the Valley.



Low-Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program

Almond harvesting is a multi-step process that includes shaking nuts onto the orchard floor, sweeping them into windrows, and mechanically collecting them using nut harvesters. The pickup phase of this process generates the majority of dust emissions, accounting for roughly 75 percent of particulate matter produced during harvesting operations. Conventional harvesters often create large dust plumes as powerful air blowers separate almonds from soil and debris.

To reduce these emissions, the District supports the adoption of low-dust harvesting technology, which has been shown to reduce particulate emissions by more than 40%, with some advanced systems achieving reductions approaching 80%. Through the Low-Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program, the District provides financial incentives to replace conventional harvesters with certified low-dust models. Since 2019, the program has helped replace more than 350 harvesters, supported by over \$43 million in funding. In 2025 alone, 85 harvesters were replaced, representing more than \$20 million in incentives to Valley growers.

Agricultural Pump Replacement Program

Agricultural irrigation pumps powered by internal combustion engines have historically been a significant source of emissions in the Valley's agricultural sector. While regulatory measures like District Rule 4702 have successfully eliminated the oldest and most polluting engines, many compliant engines still emit higher levels of pollution than the cleanest technologies available today.

The District's Agricultural Pump Replacement Program helps growers transition to cleaner irrigation systems by providing incentives to replace diesel engines with Tier 4 Final engines or zero-emission electric motors. Over the past decade, the District has funded the replacement of more than 590 irrigation pump engines, totaling over \$12 million in incentives. The program provides up to 85% of eligible costs for engine replacements and additional funding to support electrical line extensions needed for electric pump conversions. By helping growers overcome the cost barriers associated with equipment upgrades and electrical infrastructure, the program enables Valley farmers to adopt cleaner technologies while achieving additional emission reductions.

Zero-Emission Agricultural Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Voucher Program

Utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) and small tractors with less than 25 horsepower are widely used across agricultural operations for tasks such as crop monitoring, irrigation inspections, and equipment transport. Many older units are powered by gasoline or diesel engines that produce unnecessary emissions during daily farm operations.

The District's Zero-Emission Agricultural UTV Voucher Program helps growers replace these vehicles with battery-electric models. Since launching in 2018, the program has awarded more than \$51 million in funding, supporting the purchase of over 4,000 zero-emission UTVs across Valley agricultural operations. Eligible participants may receive up to 75% of the cost of a new electric UTV, with a maximum incentive of \$13,500 per vehicle. By reducing the upfront cost of electric equipment, the program helps farmers adopt cleaner technologies while improving day-to-day operational efficiency.

Yard Truck Replacement Program

Yard trucks, also known as terminal tractors or “yard goats”, are commonly used at agricultural packing houses, warehouses, rail yards, and distribution facilities to move cargo containers and trailers. Although they operate at lower speeds, these vehicles often idle for extended periods and work in close proximity to employees and surrounding communities, making older diesel models a notable source of emissions.

The District’s Yard Truck Replacement Program provides funding to replace diesel yard trucks with zero-emission electric technologies. Since the program’s launch in 2019, more than \$10.6 million in funding has supported the replacement of 74 diesel yard trucks operating within the Valley. Funding covers up to 45% of the cost of a new zero-emission truck, and all projects require the permanent destruction of the older diesel equipment to ensure lasting emission reductions.

Zero-Emission Forklift Replacement Program

Forklifts are widely used at warehouses, distribution centers, and agricultural processing facilities throughout the Valley. Many older units are powered by Large Spark Ignition (LSI) engines, which operate on fuels such as propane, gasoline, or compressed natural gas and produce emissions during daily operations.

The District’s Zero-Emission Forklift Replacement Program helps fleets transition to battery-electric forklift technologies that eliminate tailpipe emissions. Launched in mid-2024, the program provides incentives covering up to 80% of the cost of a new zero-emission forklift, making the technology more accessible for Valley businesses. Since its launch, the program has awarded more than \$6.6 million in funding, supporting the replacement of over 100 forklifts across the region. Participation in the program reflects a growing commitment among Valley businesses to adopt cleaner technologies while improving air quality for workers and surrounding communities.

Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program

As the Valley continues its transition away from open agricultural burning, growers must adopt practical and cost-effective methods to manage woody waste generated from orchard and vineyard removals. To support this transition, the District’s Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program provides financial incentives to help farmers implement cleaner alternatives for disposing of agricultural woody material.

The program offers a range of flexible options for managing agricultural waste, including chipping with soil incorporation, land application on grower properties or other agricultural land, and off-site beneficial reuse options, such as mulch production, composting, and dust suppression near roadways. Incentive amounts range from \$300 to \$1,700 per acre, depending on the selected alternative.

Participation in the program has been strong across the Valley. To date, the District has awarded more than \$236 million in funding, supporting projects on over 321,000 acres and diverting approximately 8.5 million tons of agricultural material from open burning. These investments are helping growers adopt sustainable practices while significantly reducing emissions. Continued funding will be critical to maintaining



this progress, expanding participation among smaller growers, and supporting the Valley’s long-term transition away from open agricultural burning.

These efforts have played an important role in the Valley’s broader success in phasing out open agricultural burning, one of the most significant air quality achievements for the region’s agricultural sector.

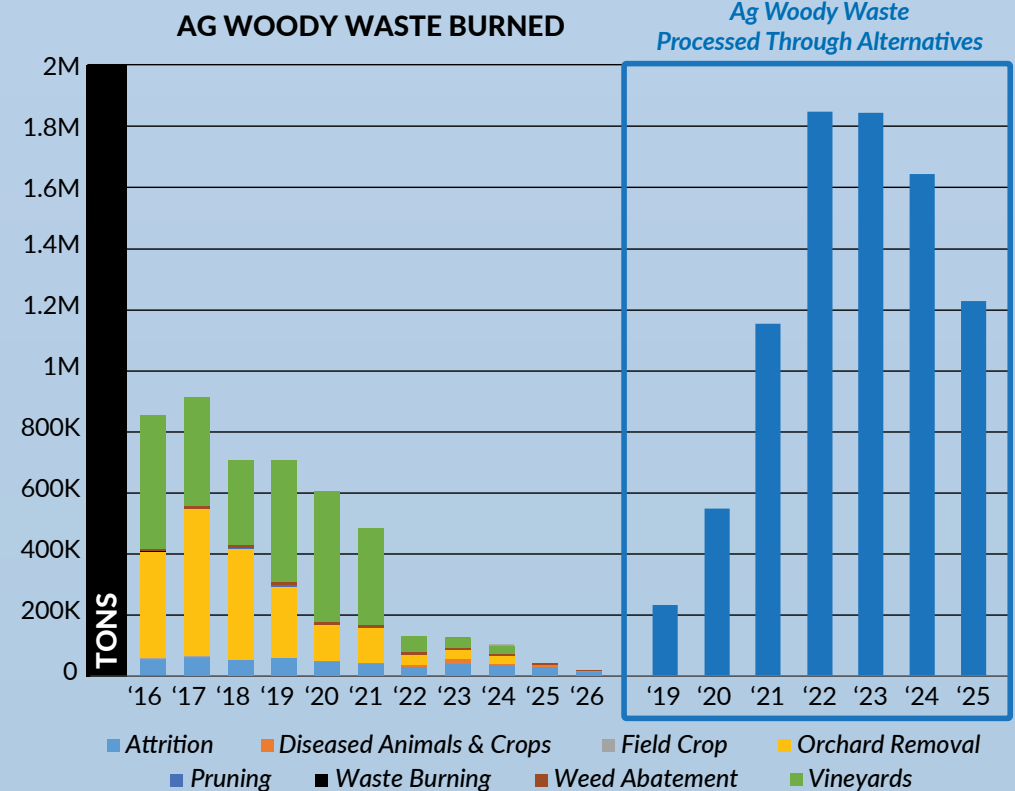
Phase-out of Open Agricultural Burning: A Valley Success Story

Through continuous partnership with the agricultural community, the San Joaquin Valley has made remarkable progress in phasing out open agricultural burning, once a common method for disposing of crop waste. Historically, more than one million tons of agricultural biomass were burned in the Valley each year, generating smoke and particulate emissions that contributed to the region’s air quality challenges. Over the past two decades, a coordinated strategy involving growers, regulators, and state partners has steadily reduced these emissions while identifying practical alternatives for managing agricultural materials.

Building on the framework established by Senate Bill 705 and District Rule 4103, the Valley implemented a phased approach that gradually restricted burning of different crop materials, including field crops, orchard and vineyard removals, prunings, and raisin trays. By January 1, 2025, a near-complete phase-out of agricultural burning was achieved, marking a major milestone in improving air quality in one of the nation’s most productive farming regions.

A wide range of agricultural materials—including field crops, prunings, orchards, vineyards, and raisin trays—have now been successfully transitioned away from burning. Ongoing research and collaboration with industry partners, universities, and government agencies continue to expand cleaner, sustainable alternatives. These include whole orchard recycling, composting, soil incorporation of chipped biomass, beneficial reuse, and emerging technologies, such as biochar production and advanced bioenergy. These approaches not only reduce emissions but can also return nutrients to the soil, improve soil health, and support the development of new agricultural by-product markets.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how collaboration between farmers, regulators, and technology partners can deliver meaningful environmental progress while supporting the long-term sustainability of the Valley’s vital agricultural economy.



State & Federal Partnerships Key for Funding Future Success

Partnerships with state and federal leaders remain critical to advancing the Valley's clean air progress. In 2025, the District continued to build on its strong track record of securing outside funding through proactive legislative engagement and strong collaboration with policymakers and partner agencies. These efforts help bring vital resources to the Valley, supporting programs that reduce emissions, accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies, and improve air quality for Valley residents while helping the region meet federal clean air standards.

Through these sustained advocacy efforts, the District successfully secured significant state and federal investments in 2025 to support clean air programs across the Valley, including:

- **\$64.2 MILLION** through AB 617 Community Air Protection incentive funds to address air quality concerns in impacted communities, in addition to securing a share of the statewide \$250 million in continuously appropriated funding through 2045 under SB 840 (Limon), ensuring long-term support for community air quality initiatives
- **\$19.4 MILLION** under the state's Carl Moyer Program to replace aging heavy-duty equipment and vehicles with cleaner technology and supporting infrastructure
- **\$27.8 MILLION** in state funding for the Clean Cars for All and the Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program, supporting transportation projects that replace older, higher-polluting vehicles with cleaner electric and hybrid alternatives
- **\$8.9 MILLION** through the Inflation Reduction Act Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Program to help deploy cleaner trucks and reduce emissions from freight movement
- **\$475,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING** to support technology advancement initiatives and innovative clean air solutions

While these investments represent meaningful progress for Valley communities, continued state and federal support remains essential to sustaining this momentum. The District will continue advocating for resources that expand sustainable agricultural programs, maintain long-term funding for the FARMER Program, accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies — including heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, marine engines, passenger vehicles, and agricultural equipment — and support alternatives to agricultural burning.

Addressing Climate Change Through Clean Air Strategies

Building on its strong partnerships and funding success, the District remains committed to addressing the impacts of climate change while advancing its core mission to protect public health through improved air quality. The Valley's unique geography and climate already present significant air quality challenges, and changing climate conditions, including increased temperatures and more frequent and intense wildfires, can further complicate efforts to meet stringent federal standards.

The District's adopted policy positions also recognize the potential impacts of climate change on local everyday air quality. As a result, the District supports greenhouse gas reduction strategies that provide co-benefits by also reducing criteria and toxic pollutants, helping the Valley meet both climate and public health goals. This alignment continues to guide the District's engagement with state and federal partners in securing funding that supports the region's long-term clean air strategy. By aligning climate and air quality goals, the District helps ensure that investments in cleaner technologies, such as zero-emission vehicles, renewable energy, and sustainable agricultural practices, provide meaningful, long-term improvements for Valley communities.

This integrated approach guides the District's planning, policy development, and engagement with state and federal partners. As an important component of the District's funding advocacy strategy, the District has been successful in competing for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding (GGRF) and other climate related resources. Through incentive programs, regulatory efforts, and collaborative initiatives, the District is helping to accelerate the transition to a lower-carbon future while continuing to achieve measurable progress in reducing harmful emissions. As climate conditions continue to evolve, the District remains focused on supporting resilient, community-centered solutions that protect public health today and position the Valley for continued success in the years ahead.

Partnerships in Action Showcasing Clean Air Solutions

Strong partnerships between the District and the agricultural community extend beyond grant programs and into collaborative events that bring growers, researchers, and policymakers together to share ideas and demonstrate real-world solutions.

At the 2025 World Ag Expo in Tulare, one of the nation's largest agricultural trade shows, thousands of farmers, ag professionals, and students visited the District's booth over the three-day event. District staff connected with growers and industry leaders to highlight innovative farming practices that improve air quality and shared information about available resources, tools, and incentive programs. Visitors also received educational materials on agricultural programs and air quality awareness, helping ensure that Valley farmers have access to the information and support needed to adopt cleaner technologies.

District staff also joined state and federal officials for an event highlighting the success of clean air investments through the state's Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. A tractor crushing demonstration provided a powerful visual reminder of how these investments are replacing older, high-polluting equipment with cleaner technologies. The event underscored the importance of continued state funding to help Valley growers modernize their operations while delivering lasting air quality and public health benefits.

Later in the year, the District Executive Director/APCO joined Valley agricultural leaders at the VINE Connect Field Day hosted at the UC Merced Experimental Smart Farm. This hands-on event gave growers the opportunity to see cutting-edge agricultural technologies operating in real farming conditions. Farmers, researchers, and ag professionals came together to explore practical solutions to some of California's most pressing agricultural challenges, demonstrating the Valley's shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and cleaner air.

Together, these collaborative events highlight the strong partnerships driving progress across the Valley—bringing growers, researchers, and policymakers together to advance practical solutions that support both agricultural productivity and improved air quality.



District Recognized by Higher Education Partner

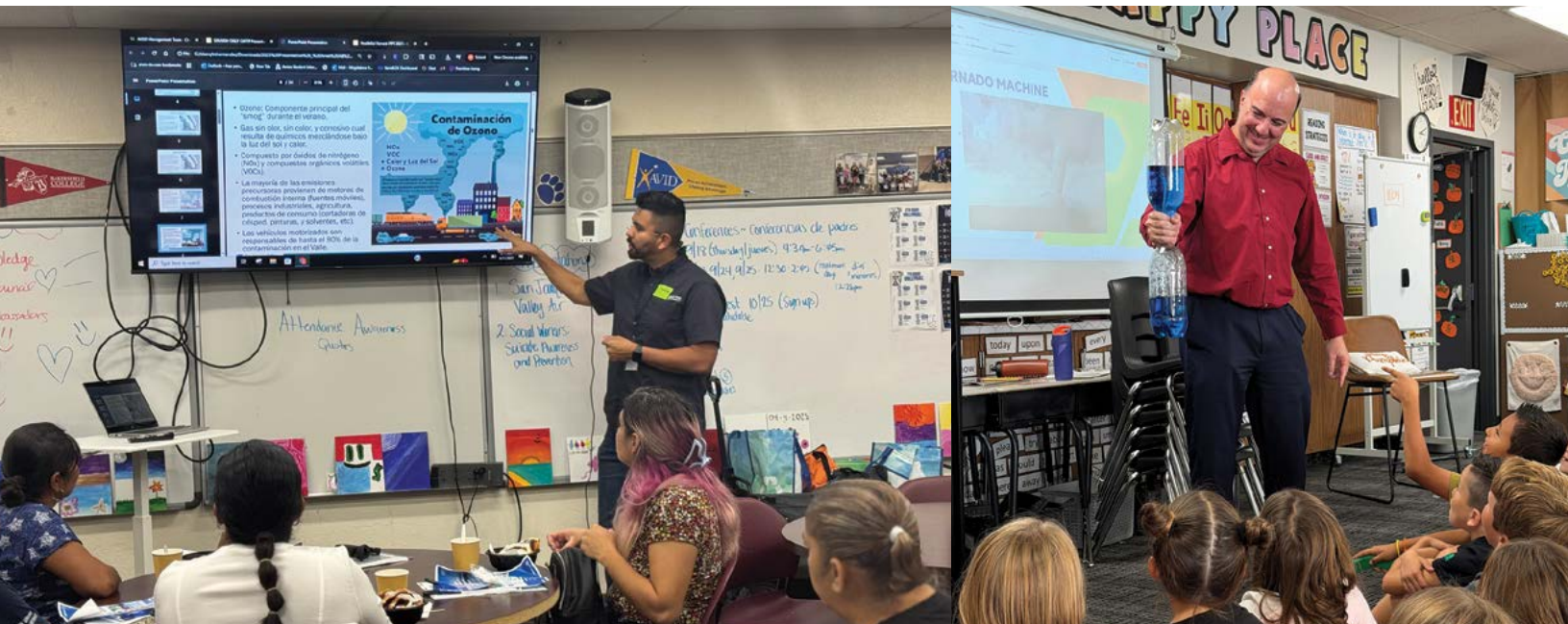
Partnerships with colleges and universities play an important role in advancing the research, innovation, and workforce development needed to meet the Valley's long-term air quality goals. By collaborating with academic institutions, the District connects real-world challenges with emerging technologies, supporting solutions that improve public health and strengthen the regional economy.

One example is the District's partnership with the Fresno State Transportation Institute, which brings together policymakers, engineers, researchers, and industry leaders to explore sustainable transportation solutions. At the Institute's 2025 STEP Summit, participants examined emerging technologies and policies aimed at reducing emissions from the transportation sector, including electrification, hydrogen and alternative fuels, artificial intelligence, and strategies to improve equity, safety, and active transportation.

District staff participated in technical panels and shared information on Valley clean air initiatives, highlighting progress in reducing emissions from passenger vehicles, freight transportation, and other mobile sources through incentive programs, regulatory strategies, and strong partnerships.

The collaboration was recognized at the Summit with multiple awards honoring the District. The District received the Business/Organization Award, while a collaborative project with OK Produce and state partners was recognized for deploying zero-emission heavy-duty trucks and supporting charging infrastructure in Fresno. In addition, Executive Director Samir Sheikh received an Individual Leadership Award for advancing innovative clean transportation policies and partnerships.

Collaborations with universities and research institutions across California continue to accelerate the development and deployment of cleaner technologies, helping the Valley advance practical solutions that improve air quality while supporting economic growth.



Healthy Air Living Schools Protecting Students Across the Valley

Through strong partnerships, clear communication, and practical tools, the Healthy Air Living Schools Program helps schools protect student health and build lasting air quality awareness across the Valley.

Protecting student health remained a core priority in 2025. The award-winning program continued to expand its impact, strengthening partnerships and reinforcing the District's role as a trusted source for clear, science-based air quality guidance. What began as a simple flag program has evolved into a comprehensive effort that delivers real-time data, practical guidance, and ready-to-use tools to schools across the Valley.

At the center of the program are the Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) Guidelines, which translate complex air quality data into clear, health-based recommendations for outdoor activities. Recognized by the California Department of Education, these guidelines align with both the District's real-time systems and the U.S. EPA's Air Quality Index, allowing schools to rely on consistent, locally relevant information.

In 2025, the District further improved access to air quality information through enhanced tools, including digital widgets, text alerts, and on-campus displays. Today, more than 80% of Valley schools participate in the program, with continued growth across all counties. District staff support this program through direct outreach, including school visits, presentations, and community engagement, helping educators and families respond confidently to changing air quality conditions.

Educational resources also continued to expand, with hands-on tools designed to help students better understand air

pollution and its health impacts. These materials, developed with input from teachers and parents, make air quality education more engaging and accessible across grade levels. Through these interactions, the District shares no-idling education, wildfire preparedness information, and awareness of available grant opportunities. This on-the-ground presence is reinforced by long-standing relationships with educators and education-focused organizations, including the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network (CREEC), helping ensure program resources remain relevant, accessible, and practical for classroom use.

TEACHER PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN CLASSROOM AIR QUALITY EDUCATION

Educator feedback remains central to the program's success. In Sanger Unified School District, students used the District-created hands-on classroom experiment kit to observe particulate matter, strengthening their understanding of air quality through real-world learning.

"The activity box kit provides hands-on opportunities for students to explore air quality in a way that feels meaningful and accessible. The ready-to-use materials save planning time and make it easy to integrate into the school day, while also supporting science and real-world connections. It helps students build awareness about their environment and empowers them to think about how their actions impact their health and community."

*- Heather Bridger, Instructional Support Provider,
Sanger Unified School District's Quail Lake
Environmental Charter School*



Advancing Public Health Trust Communication Through Regional Collaboration

In 2025, the District continued to strengthen partnerships with local health departments across the San Joaquin Valley and through the Central California Public Health Consortium (CCPHC). This cross-county collaboration supports regional coordination, information sharing, and alignment on air quality and public health priorities.

The District works closely with county health officers, directors, and public information teams during wildfire smoke events, high wind and blowing dust conditions, and other air quality episodes. This coordination supports the timely delivery of reliable air quality and health information, including air quality alerts and Clean Air Center resources, to residents, schools, and underserved populations throughout the Valley.

Through sustained collaboration, local health departments, the CCPHC, and the District integrate air quality data and public health expertise to inform outreach and media

communications. Together, these partners serve as trusted sources during air quality emergencies, helping residents navigate complex information and reinforcing the connection between clean air and their health and well-being.

"Strong partnerships between public health agencies and the Valley Air District help ensure our communities receive clear, trusted information when air quality conditions change. That collaboration is essential to protecting the health of Valley residents."

*- Joe Prado, Director,
Fresno County Department of Public Health*

Driving Innovation Through Public-Private Partnership

Strong partnerships with Valley businesses are essential to advancing clean air solutions that are both practical and transformative. By working collaboratively with industry leaders willing to pilot new technologies, the District can help demonstrate real-world pathways to cleaner operations while supporting economic growth and innovation across the region.

In 2025, the District partnered with OK Produce and Build Momentum on a transformative, multi-agency initiative funded by CARB and the California Energy Commission. The project, known as the OK Produce - Lean, Green Produce Machine Project, highlights how a high-mileage commercial fleet can successfully transition from traditional diesel vehicles to zero-emission technology while maintaining the operational reliability required for daily business operations.

Through this effort, a significant portion of OK Produce's 127-truck diesel fleet operating throughout California will transition to cleaner technology. The project replaces 68 diesel trucks with new battery-electric heavy-duty vehicles, including 61 Tesla Semi Class 8 trucks and 7 Volvo Class 8 battery-electric trucks. Supporting this transition is the installation of a Megawatt Charging System with six high-capacity chargers, powered in part by on-site renewable energy generation and battery energy storage to ensure reliable charging capability.

In addition to deploying new vehicles and infrastructure, the initiative supports workforce development through training opportunities focused on alternative fuel vehicle

technologies. The project will also deliver meaningful public health benefits for Valley residents, including those in historically disadvantaged communities such as South Central Fresno.

"Our goal is to keep delivering fresh produce across California while continuing to improve how we operate. Working with the District and our partners has made it possible to invest in new technology that benefits our customers, our workforce, our community, and the environment."

- Brady Matoian, CEO, OK Produce

This effort reflects the strength of public-private investment partnerships in advancing large-scale clean air solutions. The nearly \$52 million project includes more than \$15 million in private investment from OK Produce and over \$23 million in funding from state agencies. The District is contributing \$9.09 million through its Truck Replacement Program to ensure the permanent dismantling of the replaced diesel trucks, along with \$5.68 million through its Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program to support charging infrastructure installation.

By working alongside forward-thinking businesses and public partners, initiatives like this demonstrate how the San Joaquin Valley can serve as a proving ground for innovative clean transportation technologies, delivering meaningful air quality improvements while helping build the next generation of sustainable freight operations.



Communicating Air Quality Progress Through Economic Development Partnerships

As the San Joaquin Valley continues to make significant progress toward meeting federal air quality standards, ensuring that residents, businesses, and community partners understand both the improvements achieved and the challenges that remain is more important than ever. Public awareness plays a key role in sustaining momentum. When Valley residents see that collective actions are delivering measurable air quality improvements, they are more likely to support continued clean air efforts and the investments needed to meet increasingly stringent federal standards.

The District continues to share clear, data-driven information about the Valley's air quality progress through this 2025 Annual Report to the Community and other public resources. These publications highlight long-term improvements in ozone and PM2.5, including a growing number of days meeting federal health-based standards. The Valley's progress has also received national recognition, including being featured in the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies' State Air Trends & Successes report for achieving the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard based on 2022-2024 monitoring data.

At the same time, the District works to ensure that discussions about air quality reflect the full picture. While some national reports compare air quality conditions across the country using simplified grading systems, they may not fully capture the Valley's significant emissions reductions and decades of improvement. By sharing validated monitoring data, collaborating with partner organizations, and providing transparent public updates, the District helps ensure residents and decision-makers have access to accurate and comprehensive information.

Strong communication also supports the Valley's economic future. Public perception of air quality can influence business investment, workforce recruitment, and regional economic development. The District works with local economic development organizations to provide reliable data and resources that highlight the Valley's substantial progress while acknowledging the work that remains.

"Accurate and credible information about air quality progress plays a vital role in shaping how our region is viewed by both businesses and residents. By partnering closely with the District to share data and provide context, we can showcase the San Joaquin Valley's significant environmental improvements while continuing to promote economic growth."

- Richard Chapman, President & CEO, Kern Economic Development Corporation

Building on lessons learned through the Community Air Protection Program, the District uses insights from these partnerships to strengthen direct engagement with communities across the Valley, sharing accessible air quality information, highlighting local progress, and connecting residents with District programs and resources.

Through these ongoing partnerships with economic organizations, community members, and regional stakeholders, the District continues to strengthen public understanding of air quality progress while working collaboratively to achieve a healthier future for the Valley.



Partnering with Valley Communities

Strong partnerships with Valley residents, community organizations, and local leaders are essential to advancing the District’s mission to improve air quality and protect public health. The District has long prioritized meaningful community engagement to ensure clean air strategies reflect the needs of the communities they serve.

This commitment has grown through the state-mandated Community Air Protection Program under Assembly Bill (AB) 617. Through this effort, the District works with its Environmental Justice Advisory Group, community-based organizations, and Community Steering Committees (CSCs) in state-selected communities to develop and implement community-driven clean air strategies across the Valley.

Consistent with the Governing Board’s priority of strong engagement, the District continues to expand partnerships that connect residents with clean air programs and resources. This includes working with schools, community organizations, and local governments, participating in community events, and providing outreach in many of the languages spoken throughout the Valley to help ensure all residents benefit from cleaner air and healthier communities.

“Being part of the Community Steering Committee has given our Fresno community a voice. As a parent, it’s important to me that our concerns about air quality are taken seriously and the AB 617 program has made that possible. We’re not just talking about cleaner air—we’re working alongside the Air District to turn our priorities into real action that benefits our families.”

- Roberta Meneses, Fresno Resident, Community Steering Committee Member

Pathways to Cleaner Air Town Hall Brings Resources Directly to Community

Building on the success of previous community-centered events, the District hosted a “Pathways to Cleaner Air” Town Hall in the Arvin/Lamont community in September 2025. Organized in partnership with community organizations and the City of Arvin, the event brought together residents of the Arvin/Lamont community, partner agencies, community-based organizations, and local leaders to connect families directly with clean air opportunities and resources available in their area.

The event featured a Clean Air Resource Fair where attendees could learn about and apply for District incentive programs while also connecting with local partner agencies offering related services. By bringing these resources directly into the community, the event helped remove barriers to participation and strengthened relationships between residents and the agencies working to improve local air quality. More than 150 residents attended the event, highlighting strong community interest in clean air initiatives.

The District remains committed to ensuring that all Valley residents have equitable access to clean air programs and meaningful opportunities for engagement. In the coming year, the District will continue partnering with communities to host similar events that connect residents with resources, strengthen partnerships, and support community-driven clean air solutions.

Advancing Clean Air and Public Health Through Road, Sidewalk, and Bike Lane Improvements

Reducing road dust and improving neighborhood infrastructure have remained key priorities across several communities since the development of Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs). Through collaboration with CSCs, residents identified opportunities to reduce dust from unpaved roads, improve pedestrian safety, and expand access to active transportation through strategic paving, sidewalk installation, and bicycle infrastructure projects.

In Stockton, CSC members worked closely with the District and the City of Stockton to support a project designed to connect several elementary, middle, and high schools through new and improved bike lanes. The project leveraged City and District resources to construct bike lanes, fill in missing sidewalks, install curb ramps, and add safety features, such as high-visibility crosswalks with flashing beacons, helping make active transportation safer and more accessible for students and families.

In the La Colonia Mexicana neighborhood near Shafter, the District partnered with community members to celebrate the groundbreaking and completion of a long-anticipated road paving and infrastructure project. The project includes nearly a mile of new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters within the community. In the Arvin/Lamont community, the City of Arvin completed a paving and road improvement project along South A Street, with additional work continuing on Comanche Drive and Derby Street. These projects help reduce emissions from windblown dust while creating safer, healthier, and more accessible routes for residents who walk or bike within their communities.



Improving Air Quality with the South A Street Sidewalk, Road & Bike Lane Improvement Project

Championed by the Arvin/Lamont AB 617 Steering Committee and funded by the Valley Air District in partnership with California Climate Investments





Rooted in Cleaner Air: Vegetative Barriers & Urban Greening Efforts

The District and its partners made significant progress implementing Vegetative Barriers and Urban Greening initiatives across four Valley communities. These projects are designed to improve neighborhood environments while helping reduce pollution exposure and urban heat impacts through strategic tree planting and green space improvements.

In Shafter, the District worked closely with the CSC and the City of Shafter to develop plans to plant approximately 200 trees in parks and schools, along with a vegetative barrier of 50 trees along Lerdo Highway. Planting is expected to begin in Spring 2026.

In South Central Fresno, the District partnered with Tree Fresno, a nonprofit tree planting organization, to complete several community planting events at schools and neighborhood sites, including near Hidalgo Elementary School, with participation from CSC members, residents, and local youth. Through Tree Fresno's "Adopt-a-Tree" program, residents can plant drought-tolerant shade trees at their homes, with a goal of planting more than 2,500 large-canopy trees by April 2027.

In Stockton, a community-based organization is working with residents to prepare for upcoming tree planting activities, while in the Arvin/Lamont community the District has opened a process to identify partners interested in implementing similar greening efforts. These projects support healthier environments by reducing pollution and heat while creating greener community spaces.

Partnering with Communities to Guide Clean Air Investments

A central feature of the Community Air Protection Program is its emphasis on community-driven decision-making. Throughout the implementation of CERPs, the District works closely with CSCs to identify local concerns, understand changing priorities, and guide how incentive funding is allocated.

When programs experience high demand, the District collaborates with CSC members to consider reallocating funding from measures that have received less interest due to changing conditions or external challenges. The District also works with community members to better understand barriers that may limit participation and to explore ways to adjust program design so that resources can be delivered more effectively and efficiently.

This collaborative process has been especially important as Fresno and Shafter reached the fifth year of CERP implementation in February 2025. Although CERPs were originally designed for completion within five years, challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions affected timelines.

Over the past year, the District has worked closely with CSC members in Fresno and Shafter to identify strategies to complete remaining commitments through targeted outreach and funding adjustments, helping ensure resources are used efficiently and that residents continue to receive meaningful air quality benefits as efforts expand to other underserved and low-income communities across the Valley.

Enhancing Community Air Quality Monitoring Across the Valley

The District remains committed to understanding and addressing air quality concerns at the community level throughout the Valley. In addition to operating a robust federally referenced and mandated air monitoring network that tracks long-term air quality trends, the District utilizes temporary and mobile monitoring equipment to evaluate localized air quality conditions and respond to community concerns.

These efforts are supported by a combination of the District's regulatory air monitoring network, refinery-focused community air monitoring systems, and facility-operated fenceline monitoring. Together, these tools provide real-time data and allow the District to assess emissions from potential sources affecting nearby neighborhoods. The District currently operates two refinery community air monitoring sites, with a third expected to become operational in the coming year.

This network, along with facility fenceline monitoring data, provides residents with real-time, localized air quality information to help them stay informed about conditions in their area. Mobile monitoring equipment can also be deployed in response to community concerns or in areas where additional information is needed.

All community-level air monitoring data is publicly accessible online, supporting transparency and ensuring that residents have access to the information needed to better understand air quality conditions in their communities.

For more details, visit www.community.valleyair.org.



Community Air Protection Program

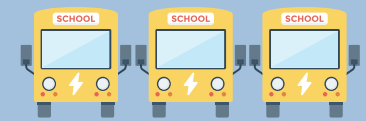
Since 2018, the Community Air Protection Program incentives funding has been invested in underserved communities across the Valley to achieve over 26,000 tons of emissions reductions.

TOTAL FUNDING EXPENDED
\$372,084,070

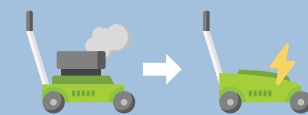
EXAMPLES OF FUNDING



1,237 TRACTORS
REPLACED



168 SCHOOL BUSES
REPLACED



3,235 LAWN MOWERS
REPLACED



31 SCHOOLS UPGRADED
WITH AIR FILTRATION



6,904 HOMES RECEIVED
AIR PURIFIERS

TOTAL REDUCTIONS
26,084 TONS



11,130 tons
of NOx



7,623 tons
of PM2.5



363 tons
of PM10



6,967 tons
of VOCs

Investing in Clean Air Solutions

Building on the strong partnerships highlighted in the previous section, the District continues to translate collaboration into real, measurable clean air progress through its robust portfolio of incentive grant programs. These programs are a cornerstone of the District's strategy to accelerate emissions reductions across the San Joaquin Valley by providing practical tools and financial assistance that help Valley residents, farmers, businesses, schools, and public agencies adopt cleaner technologies and sustainable practices.

Through over \$7.6 billion in total investments and strong public-private collaboration, the District's incentive programs help deploy cleaner equipment, modernize fleets, expand alternative fuel infrastructure, and support innovative approaches that reduce pollution while maintaining the economic vitality of the Valley. By pairing state and federal resources with significant private investment from project partners, these programs maximize the impact of every dollar invested—delivering emissions reductions more quickly and cost-effectively than regulations alone.

As the Valley continues to work toward meeting increasingly stringent federal clean air standards, sustained investment in incentive funding remains essential. The District's programs not only drive immediate air quality improvements, but also help pave the way for long-term technological transformation across key sectors of the Valley's economy. The following pages highlight additional grant programs that continue to advance cleaner technologies, support local communities, and move the San Joaquin Valley closer to a healthier, more sustainable future.



\$20,143,200
LOW-DUST NUT HARVESTER
REPLACEMENTS
85 PROJECTS



\$119,000,000
AG TRACTOR
REPLACEMENTS
1,200 PROJECTS



\$42,441,900
AG BURN
ALTERNATIVES
1,414 PROJECTS



\$6,387,600
CLEAN-BURNING
DEVICES
1,736 PROJECTS



\$1,400,000
CLEAN VEHICLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
23 PROJECTS

Over \$560 MILLION
in **CLEAN AIR**
Investments
in **2025**



\$7,400,000
PUBLIC BENEFIT
PROJECTS
409 FLEET VEHICLES



\$4,565,500
HEAVY-DUTY
REPLACEMENTS
42 TRUCKS

\$276 MILLION in
District Funding Matched
with



\$51,288,500
REPLACEMENTS,
REPAIRS & REBATES
23,371 VEHICLES

\$284 MILLION in
Applicant Funding



\$9,913,900
SCHOOL BUSES
27 BUSES



\$4,941,000
ZERO-EMISSION
AG UTVs
366 UTVs



\$4,296,228
ZERO-EMISSION
LAWN EQUIPMENT
6,093 PIECES

EMISSION REDUCTIONS

FINE PARTICULATE MATTER

↓ 5,018 TONS

NITROGEN OXIDES

↓ 5,254 TONS

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

↓ 4,381 TONS

Graphic is showing highlights of various grant programs



Cleaner Landscaping for Valley Communities

Small gas-powered landscaping equipment may seem insignificant compared to large vehicles or industrial sources, but these machines are a major contributor to localized air pollution in Valley neighborhoods. Leaf blowers, lawnmowers, and other small engines produce emissions that directly affect landscapers who operate them for extended periods, as well as nearby residents, students, and families exposed to this exhaust in their communities.

To address these emissions, the District offers incentive programs that help both professional landscapers and Valley residents transition to cleaner, battery-electric equipment. By replacing gas-powered tools with zero-emission alternatives, these programs reduce harmful emissions, lower noise levels, and make cleaner landscaping technology more accessible across the region.

Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment Program

The Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) Voucher Program provides financial incentives to professional landscapers, businesses, and public agencies that maintain their own properties to replace gas-powered landscaping equipment with new all-electric alternatives.

To participate, applicants must permanently remove an existing gas-powered piece of equipment from service by submitting it to a participating dismantling facility, ensuring that real emissions reductions are achieved.

EQUIPMENT FUNDED	
Up to \$15,000	Ride-on or Stand-ride Mowers
Up to \$1,500	Walk-behind Mowers
Up to \$1,400	Leaf blowers and Vacuums
Up to \$700	Edgers, String Trimmers, Hedge Trimmers, Chainsaws, Pole Saws, and Brush Cutters

These incentives can cover up to 100% of the cost of new equipment, including additional batteries and chargers to ensure landscapers can operate throughout the workday.

Since the program launched in May 2023, participation has grown rapidly, with many local landscaping companies, school districts, cities, counties, and special districts transitioning to electric equipment. In 2025 alone, the District awarded more than \$3 million to Valley businesses and public agencies for the purchase of 1,200 pieces of zero-emission landscaping equipment. To date, the program has supported the purchase of more than 2,800 pieces of equipment with over \$7.8 million in incentives.

“Through the District’s ZELE Program, our school district was able to replace 72 pieces of gas-powered equipment with clean electric alternatives. This transition has made a noticeable difference on our campuses, reducing noise and creating a healthier outdoor environment for our students and staff. Programs like this make it possible for schools to take meaningful action while also being good stewards of public resources.”

- Jermaine Reece, Energy Education Specialist, Stockton Unified School District

Clean Green Yard Machines Program

For Valley residents, the District’s Clean Green Yard Machines (CGYM) Residential Rebate Program helps households transition to cleaner, quieter lawn care equipment by offering rebates for battery-powered alternatives.

Residents have two participation options. Under the first option, homeowners can replace an existing gas-powered lawnmower with an electric equivalent and receive a rebate of up to \$250, provided the old mower is permanently dismantled through a participating facility. Under the second option, residents may purchase eligible zero-emission equipment, including lawnmowers, edgers, string trimmers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, or pole saws, without replacing an existing unit and receive a rebate of up to \$50.

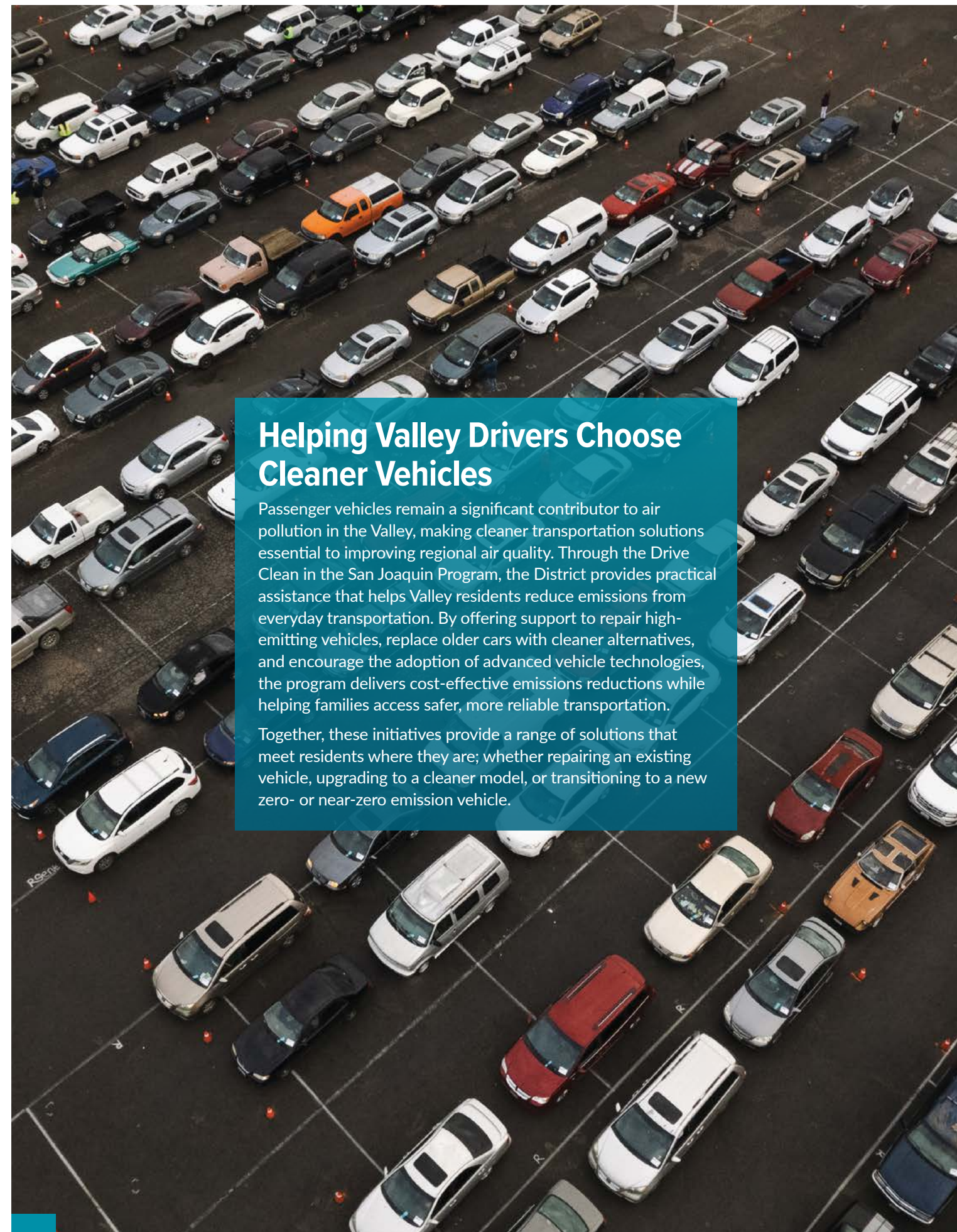
Interest in the program has continued to grow as residents experience the benefits of electric equipment, including quieter operation, reduced maintenance, and the elimination of exhaust emissions. In 2025, the District issued more than 4,800 rebates totaling more than \$1.2 million. Since the program began, the District has awarded over 22,800 rebates worth over \$4.3 million to Valley residents.

To make participation even more accessible in underserved communities, the District hosted in-person lawnmower trade-in events in Arvin/Lamont, South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton. These events created a convenient one-stop process where residents could bring their old gas mower, have it dismantled on site, and leave with a new zero-emission lawnmower at no cost.

Between late 2024 and throughout 2025, the District hosted one event in each of these communities, distributing 2,276 electric lawnmowers directly to local residents.

Together, these programs are helping reduce pollution at the neighborhood level while making cleaner landscaping equipment accessible to businesses, public agencies, and households across the Valley. By replacing thousands of gas-powered tools with zero-emission alternatives, the District continues to deliver meaningful air quality improvements where Valley residents live, work, and play.





Helping Valley Drivers Choose Cleaner Vehicles

Passenger vehicles remain a significant contributor to air pollution in the Valley, making cleaner transportation solutions essential to improving regional air quality. Through the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Program, the District provides practical assistance that helps Valley residents reduce emissions from everyday transportation. By offering support to repair high-emitting vehicles, replace older cars with cleaner alternatives, and encourage the adoption of advanced vehicle technologies, the program delivers cost-effective emissions reductions while helping families access safer, more reliable transportation.

Together, these initiatives provide a range of solutions that meet residents where they are; whether repairing an existing vehicle, upgrading to a cleaner model, or transitioning to a new zero- or near-zero emission vehicle.



Rebate Program: Incentivizing Cleaner Vehicle Purchases

One key component of the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Program is the Rebate Program, which provides financial incentives to Valley residents and businesses who purchase or lease eligible new zero- or near-zero emission vehicles.

These rebates help offset the upfront costs associated with cleaner vehicle technologies, making advanced vehicles more accessible to Valley drivers while accelerating the transition to lower-emission transportation. In 2025, the program continued to receive strong interest and positive public response, with nearly 1,900 rebates issued across the Valley.

By supporting the adoption of cleaner passenger vehicles, the Rebate Program plays an important role in reducing transportation-related emissions and helping Valley residents take part in the region's clean air progress.

Tune In & Tune Up: Repairing High-Emitting Vehicles

For many residents, repairing an existing vehicle can be the most immediate way to reduce emissions. The District's Tune In & Tune Up Program provides free emissions repair assistance to Valley residents whose vehicles may otherwise remain on the road due to the high cost of repairs.

Administered in partnership with Valley Clean Air Now for more than a decade, the program operates through in-person events and phone-based applications, helping vehicle owners address emissions-related issues quickly and conveniently.

Vehicle owners receive a free emissions test. If the vehicle fails the test, owners may qualify for a repair voucher, typically up to \$850, to cover emissions-related diagnostics, repairs, and retesting at participating smog shops.

Over the past year, the program facilitated more than 18,500 vehicle repairs throughout the Valley. Additional Community Air Protection funding allowed the program to expand assistance within four of the Valley's underserved communities, delivering critical and cost-effective emissions reductions while continuing to serve residents Valley-wide.

Replace Program: Transitioning to Cleaner Vehicles

While repairs can extend the life of existing vehicles, the District's Replace Program helps residents transition away from older, high-polluting vehicles altogether by providing financial assistance to replace them with newer, cleaner alternatives.

Since its launch more than a decade ago, the program has focused on serving low-income Valley residents and underserved communities, helping ensure that cleaner transportation options are accessible to those who need them most.

The District's success in implementing the program has helped shape similar efforts across California. In recognition of the Valley's achievements, the state expanded the Clean Cars 4 All Program to additional air districts and later to a statewide initiative, demonstrating how the District has served as a leader in advancing passenger vehicle replacement programs.

Ongoing advocacy has helped secure more than \$132 million in program funding, enabling over 11,000 Valley residents to replace older, higher-polluting vehicles with cleaner options. In 2025 alone, nearly 3,000 replacement projects were completed.

Community outreach remains a cornerstone of the program's success. In 2025, the District hosted 83 weeknight application clinics throughout Valley communities, attracting more than 6,200 attendees and assisting over 2,700 families. These events allow residents to meet directly with program staff, learn about available financial assistance, and complete applications with on-site support.

The program also expanded its participating dealership network to more than 80 dealerships across the Valley, including 30 new dealerships added in 2025, giving participants greater access to suitable replacement vehicles and simplifying the purchasing process.

Through these complementary programs, the District continues to provide practical pathways for Valley residents to reduce vehicle emissions while improving reliability and affordability for everyday transportation. By repairing high-emitting vehicles, supporting cleaner replacements, and incentivizing advanced vehicle technologies, the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Program is helping move the Valley steadily toward a cleaner transportation future.



Creating Opportunities to Transition to Cleaner Heavy-Duty Trucks

Heavy-duty trucks are essential to the Valley's economy, serving as the backbone of goods movement across one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation. Major freight corridors, such as Interstate 5 and State Route 99, connect farms, distribution centers, and businesses to markets across California and beyond. While critical to economic activity, these trucks also represent the largest source of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and diesel particulate matter emissions in the Valley, contributing significantly to ongoing air quality challenges.

Although emissions from heavy-duty trucks are largely regulated at the state and federal level, transitioning to zero-emission technology remains complex. Factors such as high upfront costs, evolving technology, infrastructure availability, and operational considerations continue to influence how quickly fleets can adopt cleaner alternatives. In this environment, incentive programs play a vital role, helping fleets overcome financial barriers, reduce risk, and move forward with investments in cleaner equipment.

For more than two decades, the District has successfully partnered with Valley businesses to reduce emissions from heavy-duty trucks through targeted incentive programs. Over the past ten years alone, initiatives such as the Truck

Voucher Program, Proposition 1B Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program, and the current Heavy-Duty Truck Replacement Program have supported more than 2,300 truck replacement projects, representing an investment of over \$145 million in cleaner technology.

Today, the District's Heavy-Duty Truck Replacement Program continues to accelerate the transition to zero- and near-zero-emission trucks. Eligible fleets can receive up to \$410,000 per vehicle, depending on factors such as fleet size, project cost-effectiveness, and equipment type. These incentives help make advanced clean truck technologies more accessible while supporting real, long-term emissions reductions.

By continuing to invest in cleaner truck technologies, the District is helping Valley fleets modernize their operations, reduce emissions, and improve air quality, particularly in disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by freight activity. These efforts remain critical to achieving long-term air quality goals while sustaining the economic vitality of the region.

Leading the Transition to Zero-Emission Freight

Reducing emissions from heavy-duty trucks remains one of the most critical challenges in improving air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. Through strategic investments and partnerships, the District continues to support innovative projects that demonstrate how zero-emission freight technologies can operate successfully at scale while delivering meaningful air quality benefits for Valley communities.

In 2022, the District was awarded \$13.15 million in competitive funding from CARB and the California Energy Commission through the Zero-Emission Drayage Truck and Infrastructure Pilot Project grant opportunity. The project supports large-scale deployment of zero-emission Class 8 drayage and regional haul trucks along with the advanced charging infrastructure needed to power them.

To implement the project, the District partnered with Pepsi Bottling Group, LLC and New Bern Transport Corporation (operating subsidiaries of PepsiCo, Inc.) along with CALSTART and HandsOn Central California to launch the South-Central Fresno Pepsi Delivery Truck Electrification Project. PepsiCo matched the public funding with more than \$13.15 million in private investment, doubling the total project impact.

The project deployed 50 Tesla Semi battery-electric Class 8 trucks, along with the installation of a high-capacity charging facility featuring eight 700+ kilowatt DC fast chargers utilizing the Megawatt Charging System standard and a battery energy storage system designed to support reliable operations. Together, these investments demonstrate how advanced zero-emission truck technologies can support regional freight operations while significantly reducing greenhouse gas and criteria air pollutant emissions.

The project directly delivers emissions reductions in an area that has historically experienced disproportionate industrial impacts. Beyond the environmental benefits, the project also supports local workforce development by helping expand training opportunities related to alternative fuel vehicle technologies.

By successfully deploying zero-emission trucks and charging infrastructure at scale, the project serves as an important pilot model for fleets across California and beyond. It demonstrates the real-world feasibility of transitioning heavy-duty freight operations to cleaner technologies, paving the way for broader adoption and helping accelerate the Valley's progress toward a cleaner transportation future.





Building the Infrastructure for Clean Transportation

As zero- and near-zero-emission vehicle technologies continue to advance, the need for reliable fueling and charging infrastructure across the Valley continues to grow. Supporting the transition to cleaner transportation, whether for school buses, heavy-duty trucks, forklifts, or passenger vehicles, requires a robust network of accessible charging and fueling stations. Through targeted incentive programs, the District is helping communities and businesses build the infrastructure necessary to support the next generation of clean transportation.

The District's Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program provides grant funding to support the deployment and expansion of hydrogen fueling stations and battery-electric charging equipment throughout the region. Both public agencies and private organizations are eligible to participate, with school bus infrastructure projects potentially qualifying for up to 100% of eligible costs. These investments are helping ensure fleets across the Valley have the reliable charging and fueling capacity needed to operate zero-emission vehicles efficiently.

In 2025, the District supported a major infrastructure project at Turlock Unified School District, helping modernize the district's transportation facilities and prepare for a transition to cleaner student transportation. The project included the installation of 24 electric charging units, multiple solar carports, and advanced energy management software designed to optimize charging efficiency and manage operational costs. This investment establishes the foundation for the school district's long-term goal of transitioning to a fully electric school bus fleet over the coming decade.

Complementing these larger infrastructure efforts, the District's Charge Up! Program continues expanding electric vehicle charging access across the Valley. The program provides incentives of up to \$6,000 per Level 2 charger and up to \$25,000 per Level 3/DC fast charger for installations at public agencies, commercial businesses, and multi-unit residential properties. In 2025 alone, the District awarded nearly \$1.4 million in incentives to support new charging installations.

Together, these investments are helping build a stronger regional charging network, making electric vehicles more practical for fleets and residents alike while supporting the Valley's ongoing transition to cleaner transportation.



Clean Rides for Young Riders *Zero-Emission School Bus Program*

The District's Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement Incentive Program offers financial incentives for replacing current diesel school buses that transport public school children to and from school with zero-emission school buses. This initiative targets disadvantaged or low-income communities within the District's boundaries. The goal of this program is to reduce emissions from school buses that operate within the District boundaries. Over the past 10 years, the District has awarded over \$78 million to replace nearly 300 school buses.

Public Agencies Leading the Way in Clean Transportation

Public agencies across the Valley play a vital role in protecting community health and improving regional air quality. From city governments and school districts to counties and special districts, these agencies are increasingly investing in cleaner vehicles and equipment that reduce emissions while continuing to serve Valley residents.

To support these efforts, the District's Public Benefit Grants Program – Alternative Fuel New Vehicle Purchase Component provides financial incentives that help public agencies leverage their resources and transition their fleets to cleaner technologies. The program assists Valley cities, counties, special districts, and public educational institutions as they adopt innovative clean-air solutions and demonstrate practical pathways for reducing emissions from public fleet operations.

Through the program, participating agencies can receive up to \$20,000 per vehicle or piece of equipment, with a maximum incentive of \$100,000 per agency each calendar year. These funds help offset the cost of cleaner alternatives, allowing agencies to incorporate advanced technologies into their daily operations.

Vehicles and equipment funded through the program include all-electric off-road utility carts, battery-electric and plug-in hybrid passenger vehicles, zero-emission motorcycles, and electric bicycles. By replacing conventional gas-powered equipment with these cleaner options, participating agencies are reducing emissions while modernizing their fleets.

Beyond the immediate emissions benefits, these investments help demonstrate how public agencies can successfully transition to cleaner technologies. As agencies adopt these technologies and share their experiences, they create models that can be replicated by other organizations throughout the Valley.

In 2025, the District awarded \$7.4 million to Valley public agencies for the purchase of 409 clean vehicles and pieces of equipment. Since the program's launch in 2011, the District has invested more than \$84 million, supporting the purchase of over 3,900 clean vehicles and equipment across the region.

Through these investments, the District continues to empower public agencies to lead by example, demonstrating how clean technology solutions can improve air quality while delivering essential services to communities throughout the Valley.



Cleaner Celebrations for Valley Communities

Fireworks have long been a part of community celebrations across the Valley, but their impact on air quality and public health has become an increasing concern. During major holidays, such as the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve, emissions from fireworks can significantly elevate levels of particulate matter and release toxic pollutants into the air, particularly in neighborhoods where fireworks activity is concentrated. These impacts are often intensified by Valley weather conditions, where stagnant air and limited dispersion can cause pollution to linger, affecting residents well beyond the duration of the celebration.

To address these challenges while preserving the spirit of community events, the District launched the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program in February 2024. The program provides funding to public agencies and private organizations to replace traditional fireworks with cleaner, innovative alternatives, such as drone light shows and laser displays, offering visually engaging experiences without the associated air quality and public safety impacts.

The initial pilot program generated strong interest across the Valley, with \$850,000 awarded to support a wide range of events, including Fourth of July celebrations, high school graduations, county fairs, rodeos, community festivals,

and sporting events. Feedback from event organizers and attendees was overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating that these alternatives can successfully deliver memorable experiences while significantly reducing pollution.

Building on this success, the Governing Board approved an additional \$250,000 in funding in November 2024 to continue the program into 2025. This next phase prioritized new participants, expanding access to communities and organizations that had not previously received funding. In 2025, the District funded 21 additional projects, further demonstrating the growing acceptance and viability of cleaner alternatives to traditional fireworks.

Since its launch, the program has supported 45 celebratory events across the Valley, helping to reduce emissions during peak pollution periods while enhancing public safety and protecting community health. Moving forward, the District is committed to providing guidance and support for those agencies and organizations interested in exploring clean alternatives to fireworks. By encouraging innovative and environmentally friendly approaches to celebration, the District is helping Valley communities continue their traditions in a way that supports cleaner air and a healthier future.



District Wins National Recognition for Implementation of Inventory Tracking System for Air Monitoring Operations

At the 2025 fall meeting of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA), the association announced the 2025 Best Practices in Air Pollution Control that highlight innovative programs, groundbreaking technology, and meritorious operations in the field of air pollution control. Of particular interest are activities that are directly transferrable to the operation of an air pollution control agency.

“The best practice designations this year featured unique, effective programs created by state and local air agencies to solve complex air quality management challenges. We appreciate the work that went into every nomination and look forward to the exchange of ideas that AAPCA’s Best Practices Program fosters every year.”

-Cory Chism, incoming AAPCA 2026 Vice President, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

AAPCA recognized the District with a Best Practice Award for its implementation of an Inventory Tracking System for Air Monitoring Operations. The inventory tracking system has significantly strengthened the District’s ability to maintain a reliable and responsive monitoring network. By improving how staff track, manage, and deploy air monitoring tools, the District can continue delivering high-quality data that helps protect the health of Valley residents. This effort supports transparency, efficient use of public funds, data quality, and public health protection.

Jon Klassen, Director of Air Quality Science for the District, presented an overview of the project at the AAPCA’s 2025 Fall Business Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he highlighted how the inventory tracking system has

transformed the District’s air monitoring operations by giving staff the tools and data necessary to effectively manage one of the largest air monitoring networks in the nation. These advancements support the Valley’s ongoing progress toward meeting federal air quality standards for multiple criteria pollutants.

“This system has significantly strengthened our ability to maintain a reliable and responsive monitoring network,” Klassen said. “By improving how we track, manage, and deploy air monitoring tools, we can continue delivering high-quality data that helps protect the health of Valley residents.”

Core elements of the implemented tracking system include:

- An inventory and asset tracking process, built using a cloud-based platform that assists in tracking, managing, and organizing equipment, supplies, and assets in one centralized location.
- Real-time tracking of monitoring equipment, repair parts, and supplies across the network in an efficient way, ensuring resources are available, properly maintained, and quickly deployed when needed.
- Ability to create and scan QR codes to update equipment status, access calibration records, and schedule maintenance, while automated alerts help prevent low-stock of key resources and missed recertifications.

These comprehensive efforts reinforce the District’s commitment to transparency, efficient use of public funds, data quality, and public health protection by ensuring that air monitoring equipment is rigorously tracked, maintained, and deployed to deliver accurate, timely, and trustworthy air quality information to Valley residents.

Monitoring the Valley’s Air Data Driving Public Health

Protecting public health begins with understanding the air we breathe. To meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and support ongoing attainment efforts, the District, in coordination with CARB, operates one of the most comprehensive air monitoring networks in the nation.

This robust system of strategically located monitoring stations collects real-time data on ozone, PM2.5, and other key pollutants throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The information gathered provides the scientific foundation for regulatory decisions, planning efforts, and community outreach initiatives.

Using data from this network, the District produces daily Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts for each Valley county, helping residents plan their activities and reduce exposure during unhealthy conditions. Schools, community organizations, and individual residents can also subscribe to receive hourly real-time air quality notifications—empowering families with timely, localized information.

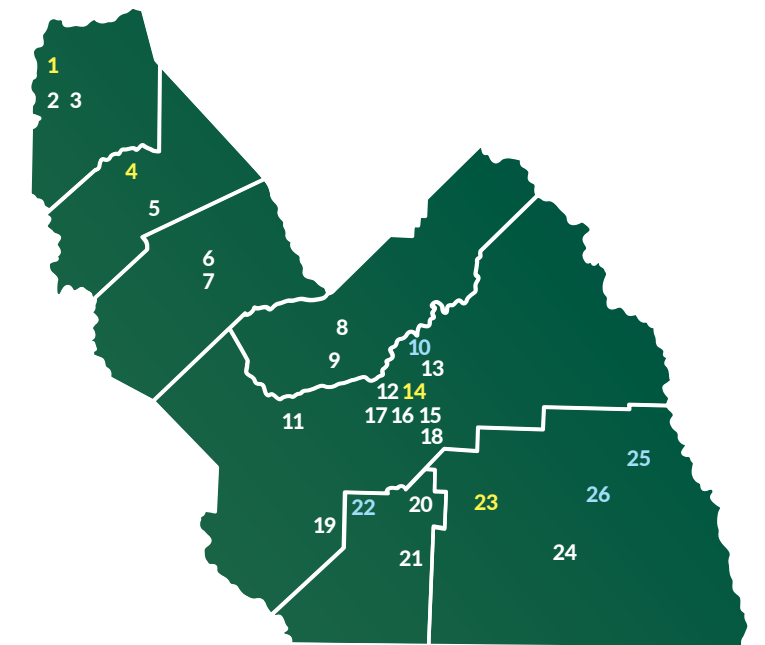
Beyond daily reporting, the District conducts detailed analysis of long-term monitoring data to track trends, evaluate program effectiveness, and guide strategies aimed at achieving ozone and PM2.5 attainment. By combining rigorous science with transparent communication, the District continues to move the Valley toward cleaner air and healthier communities.

“The monitoring network gives us a real-time picture of the air people are breathing across the Valley. That data helps guide everything we do, from forecasting air quality for families and schools to shaping the strategies that move us closer to meeting federal standards.”

- Madison Jordan-Perkins, District Air Quality Analysis and Research Supervisor

MONITORING DESIGNATIONS

A	Measures precipitation with acidic components
F	Measures fine particulate matter (PM2.5)
G	Measures gaseous pollutants (e.g. ozone, NO2, CO)
M	Measures meteorological parameters (e.g. wind speed/direction, temp, RH, pressure)
P	Measures particulate matter (PM10)
N	Comprehensive National Core air monitoring site focused on measuring particulate matter, PM2.5 speciation, gaseous pollutants, meteorology
T	Measures hazardous air pollutants, including VOCs, carbonyls, PM10 metals, hexavalent chromium, and PAHs



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

- 1 Stockton-University Park: G,P,F,M,T
- 2 Tracy-Airport: G,M,P,F
- 3 Manteca: P,F,M

STANISLAUS COUNTY

- 4 Modesto-14th St: G,M,P,F
- 5 Turlock: G,M,P,F

MERCED COUNTY

- 6 Merced-M St: P,F
- 7 Merced-Vierra: G,F

MADERA COUNTY

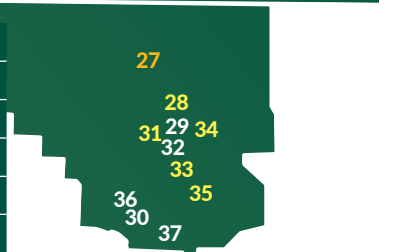
- 8 Madera City: G,P,F,M
- 9 Madera-Pump Yard: G,M

FRESNO COUNTY

- Other¹: Monache Tribe/Foothill Yokut Indians
- 10 Table Mountain: G,F,P,M
- 11 Tranquillity: G,F,M
- 12 Fresno-Sky Park: G,M
- 13 Clovis: G,M,P,F
- 14 Fresno-Garland: G,M,P,F,T,N
- 15 Fresno-Pacific: F
- 16 Fresno-Drummond: G,P,M
- 17 Fresno-Foundry Park Ave: G,M,F
- 18 Parlier: G,M
- 19 Huron: F,M

MONITORING OPERATION

- Sites operated by the District
- Sites operated by the District & CARB
- Sites operated by CARB
- Sites operated by other agencies: 1: Tribal, 2: National Park Service



KINGS COUNTY

- 20 Hanford: G,F,M,P
- 21 Corcoran: F,M,P
- Other¹: Tachi Yokut Tribe
- 22 Santa Rosa Rancheria: G,M,P

TULARE COUNTY

- 23 Visalia-W.Ashland Ave: G,P,F,M
- 24 Porterville: G,F,M
- Other²
- 25 Lower Kaweah: A,G,M,F
- 26 Ash Mountain: G,M

KERN COUNTY

- 27 Shafter: G,M
- 28 Oildale: G,M,P
- 29 Bakersf-Golden/M St: F,P
- 30 Bakersf-Westwind: G,M
- 31 Bakersf-Calif Ave: G,M,P,F,T
- 32 Bakersf-Muni: G,M
- 33 Bakersf-Airport (Planiz): F
- 34 Edison: G,M
- 35 Arvin-Di-Giorgio: G,M
- 36 Maricopa: G,M
- 37 Lebec: F,M

Service at the Forefront The District's STAR Culture of Excellence

Delivering exceptional service is central to the District's mission. Every day, District employees work with Valley residents, businesses, community organizations, and public agencies to advance clean air solutions. To support this commitment, the District has established STAR, an organizational culture that promotes excellence in both technical work and customer service.

STAR is built on four Core Values—Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Respect—that guide how employees work together and how they engage with the communities the District serves.

The Core Values of STAR

SERVICE – Providing responsive, helpful, and professional service in every interaction with internal and external customers.

TEAMWORK – Working collaboratively across departments and programs to achieve shared goals and strengthen the District's ability to serve the Valley.

ATTITUDE – Approaching challenges with professionalism, positivity, and a commitment to solutions.

RESPECT – Recognizing the diverse perspectives of Valley residents, stakeholders, and colleagues while upholding the District's mission.

Through STAR, these values are woven into daily operations, ensuring that professionalism, collaboration, and accountability remain at the heart of the District's work. The program reinforces clear service expectations while supporting continuous improvement in employee performance, customer engagement, and leadership development.

Key components of the STAR program include:

- Maintaining high standards for service, professionalism, and technical excellence.
- Empowering employees to identify challenges and develop practical solutions.
- Providing ongoing training and opportunities for professional growth.
- Recognizing and celebrating employees who demonstrate STAR values in their work.

"I'm proud to work for an organization that truly empowers employees to share ideas and help improve how we serve the Valley. Through the STAR culture, everyone is encouraged to contribute solutions that strengthen the District and the service we provide to our communities."

- Ryan Hayashi, District Deputy APCO

With the support and leadership of the District's Governing Board, STAR has helped cultivate a workplace culture that prioritizes service, innovation, and accountability. By embracing these principles, the District continues to strengthen its ability to deliver effective air quality programs while maintaining strong relationships with the communities it serves.

Through the STAR culture, the District remains committed to providing responsive service, fostering collaboration, and advancing innovative solutions that improve air quality and quality of life throughout the San Joaquin Valley.



STAR in the Community Employees Giving Back

The District's commitment to service extends well beyond the office. Throughout the year, employees across the Valley dedicated their time and energy to community service projects that support local families, animals, and vital community resources. Through District-sanctioned volunteer efforts, staff members worked together to make a meaningful difference in the communities they proudly serve.

The Central Region played a vital role in the Central California Blood Center's blood drive, donating numerous pints of blood to help save lives throughout the region. Employees also partnered with a local school during the holiday season, sponsoring more than 50 students and providing individually selected gifts to support and uplift children and families in need.

"The District has hosted blood drives with the Central California Blood Center for many years, and it's inspiring to see employees rally around opportunities to give back. This year's event set a record with 22 units of blood donated, reflecting the strong culture of service our staff bring to the community."

- Heather Heinks, District Outreach and Communications Manager

In the Southern Region, employees supported the Kern County Animal Shelter during the colder months when the shelter was especially low on essential supplies. Recognizing the increased need to keep animals warm and comfortable through the winter season, employees organized a donation drive to help fill the gap. Blankets, towels, food, treats, and toys were gathered to help care for the animals awaiting their adoption.

The Northern Region took part helping the Astro Foundation, a non-profit animal rescue, that suffered significant damage when a car collided with their building. Employees came together and donated various items that included pet carriers, dog beds, cleaning supplies, collars, harnesses, leashes, toys and food. Their efforts led to the rehabilitation and rehoming of cats and dogs.

These volunteer efforts reflect the spirit of service that guides District employees each day. By supporting local organizations and lending a helping hand where it is needed most, staff continue to strengthen the communities of the San Joaquin Valley and demonstrate that the District's commitment to the Valley goes far beyond improving air quality.



Inside the District Delivering Results Through Accountability

Accountability is at the core of how the District serves the residents and businesses of the Valley. From transparent financial stewardship to the thoughtful development and enforcement of air quality regulations, the District is committed to operating with integrity, efficiency, and innovation. Every dollar invested and every rule adopted is carefully evaluated to ensure it delivers real air quality improvements and meaningful benefits for the communities we serve. This unwavering focus on accountability has earned the District strong audit results and recognition as a trusted leader in effective air quality management.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPARENT OPERATIONS, SUPERIOR SERVICE

The District's administrative team ensures that financial and general services are delivered with transparency, accuracy, and accountability. Core functions include budget development, accounting, financial reporting, and the careful management of state and federal grant funds.

"As stewards of public funds, we take great care to ensure every dollar is managed responsibly and transparently. Strong administrative systems help ensure the District can deliver effective programs and reliable service to the communities we serve."

-Ryan Kincaid, District Controller

To better serve businesses and the public, the District has embraced digital tools that streamline how customers interact with us. Secure online payment options now allow customers to view outstanding invoices, submit payments by e-check, debit or credit card, and receive immediate confirmation through an online portal.

In parallel, the District has modernized internal processes to improve efficiency and reduce waste. Many administrative functions—including application submissions, billing adjustments, contract execution, and payment requests—have transitioned to electronic processing, resulting in faster turnaround times and more efficient service delivery.

HUMAN RESOURCES & WORKFORCE WELLBEING

The District's Human Resources team supports a skilled, diverse, and engaged workforce dedicated to serving our community. Human Resources oversees recruitment, training and professional development, compensation and benefits, workers' compensation, employee wellness initiatives, and compliance with employment laws and labor relations requirements. The District strictly prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any other protected characteristic, and is committed to maintaining a respectful workplace. By fostering a culture of accountability, and wellbeing, the District empowers employees to deliver high-quality service to the public.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The District Counsel's Office oversees all aspects of the District's legal needs, from partnering with Human Resources on employment issues, assisting Grants and Incentives on contracts, working with the Planning team on state and federal attainment issues and many other issues that come up under state and federal laws.

The Counsel's office also works closely with the Compliance Department to enforce regulations and address violations. Under state law, violations may result in financial penalties or criminal charges. However, the District offers an informal settlement process that allows violators to resolve penalties without court action. In many cases, this process results in a lower cost for the party involved and a quicker resolution. The public is encouraged to respond promptly to communications from the District Counsel's Office to take advantage of these options, which can include installment payment plans when needed.

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER SERVE THE VALLEY

The District continues to prioritize innovation by using modern technology to improve customer service and strengthen daily operations. Over the past year, several major technology upgrades have been completed, with additional improvements underway. These efforts are helping streamline processes, give staff better tools to do their jobs, and make the District more responsive and efficient in serving Valley residents and businesses.

One key improvement is the implementation of a new workflow system for the District's Grants program. The system automates document routing, approvals, and grant management, reducing manual paperwork and helping ensure consistent processing across departments. With automated notifications, status tracking, and integration with existing financial systems, the new platform improves efficiency, transparency, and reporting while supporting future program growth.

The District also completed a major modernization of its Permit Administration System (PAS), a core platform that supports many of the District's business services. Originally launched in 1999, PAS had become increasingly difficult to maintain. The upgraded system introduces modern technology, stronger cybersecurity protections, and improved functionality that will allow for better workflow management, enhanced security monitoring, and improved customer service tools.

Additional technology upgrades focused on strengthening the District's network security and data protection. Infrastructure improvements, including upgraded routers, firewalls, and switches, enhance cybersecurity by better isolating critical systems and improving traffic monitoring. At the same time, the District implemented an upgraded backup environment that provides encrypted backups, improved storage redundancy, and faster system recovery in the event of an outage or cybersecurity incident.

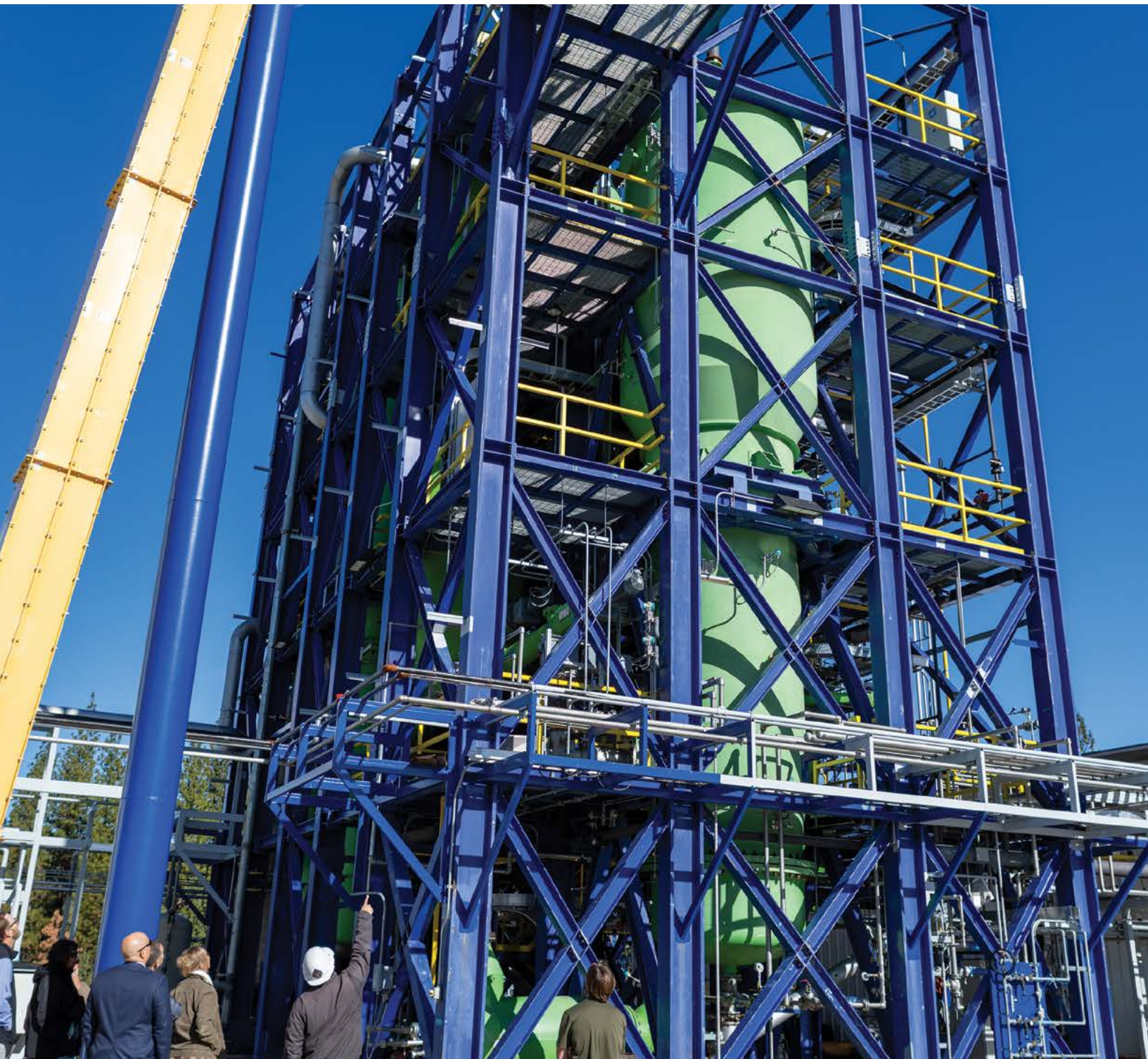
The District also updated its mobile application to ensure compatibility with current operating systems and maintain availability in mobile app stores. The upgrade improves security, stability, and performance, helping ensure the public continues to have reliable access to mobile services and real-time air quality information.

Finally, the District completed an upgrade to its OnBase Enterprise Document Management System. The enhanced platform improves document storage, indexing, and retrieval while strengthening security and supporting efficient collaboration across departments.

Together, these technology investments help the District operate more efficiently, protect critical systems and data, and continue delivering reliable services to Valley residents.

DISTRICT RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

The District has once again been recognized for its commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. It received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (COA) Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its fiscal year 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The GFOA is a highly respected organization that provides guidance on governmental financial management. The Certificate of Achievement is its highest form of recognition and is awarded only to agencies that meet the highest standards of financial reporting, transparency, and accountability. This award affirms the District's dedication to sound fiscal management and reinforces public confidence in its financial stewardship.



Permits

The District works closely with Valley businesses and assists them in complying with the Valley's air pollution regulations, which are some of the most stringent in the nation. Overseeing approximately **50,000** permits and registrations for more than **15,100** facilities, the District plays a pivotal role in protecting air quality and the health of the Valley residents.

AUTHORITIES TO CONSTRUCT & PERMITS TO OPERATE

Stationary sources of air pollution, from dry cleaners and auto body shops to power plants and refineries, must obtain District permits before construction or operation. The process begins with an Authority to Construct (ATC) permit, which allows the District, project proponents, and the public to evaluate compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. Projects must incorporate best available control technology and mitigate emission increases. Once the District verifies that equipment is properly installed and operating in compliance with ATC conditions, a Permit to Operate is issued.

FEDERALLY MANDATED OPERATING PERMITS (TITLE V)

A total of 226 facilities in the Valley are subject to Title V permits. Federal law requires major sources to obtain Title V permits, which are designed to expand public and EPA participation in the permitting process for the largest emitters of air contaminants.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CMP) PLANS

The District updates approximately 6,000 CMP plans to reduce emissions from on-field agricultural operations, supporting cleaner practices across the Valley's agricultural sector.

EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Each year, the District collects emissions and operational data from thousands of facilities, calculates annual emissions, and reports them to CARB. This inventory serves as a foundation for air quality planning and emission reduction strategies.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

CEQA requires environmental impacts of projects to be assessed, disclosed, and mitigated when feasible. District staff review development proposals, permits, and rules to ensure compliance with CEQA and the protection of public health.

INDIRECT SOURCE REVIEW (ISR)

The District's ISR Rule (Rule 9510) is the only program of its kind in California and the nation. It applies to new development projects and aims to reduce NOx and PM10 emissions from associated mobile and area sources. Developers are encouraged to incorporate clean air design features or, if necessary, fund off-site emission reduction projects through mitigation fees, 100% of which support local air quality improvements.

PROTECTING VALLEY RESIDENTS FROM TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS

In addition to reducing ozone and particulate matter, the District prioritizes lowering toxic air pollutants through a coordinated approach. The air toxics program works alongside state and federal efforts to identify, evaluate, and reduce health risks, prevent localized "hot spots," and ensure new or expanding facilities do not pose unacceptable risks.

The District has conducted detailed health risk assessments for thousands of facilities, confirming that none pose significant health risks to Valley residents. Over the past 20 years, cancer risk from air toxics has declined substantially, reflecting the success of coordinated regulatory programs, cleaner technologies, and ongoing monitoring.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE (SBA)

Providing strong customer service is a core District priority. The SBA team supports businesses that may lack the resources or expertise to navigate permitting and compliance requirements. Staff offer guidance on technology options, application processes, and cost-effective compliance strategies. Businesses can contact SBA staff directly: Fresno (559) 230-5888, Modesto (209) 557-6446, and Bakersfield (661) 392-5665.

PERMITTING BY THE NUMBERS

2,056	Authority to Construct permits issued
3	Initial Title V permit projects processed
46	Title V permit renewal projects processed
149	Title V permit modification projects processed
45	Emission Reduction Credit banking or transfer projects processed
64	Permit-Exempt Equipment Registrations projects processed
369	Conservation Management Practices plans processed
677	Toxic air contaminant risk management reviews processed
7,548	Facility emissions inventory projects processed
1,393	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review requests processed
469	CEQA comment letters sent to Valley agencies
353	Indirect Source Review applications processed



Enforcement

District staff conduct inspections at over **15,100** permitted and regulated facilities (including approximately **6,000** agricultural operations), with over **40,500** permitted emission units. In addition, staff respond to thousands of public complaints annually, and verify emissions reductions at numerous locations with implemented emission reduction incentive projects.

As a vital component of the District's regulatory program, the Compliance Department conducts a range of enforcement and compliance assistance activities to ensure adherence to District, state, and federal regulations. These activities align with program objectives outlined in federal and state laws as well as the District's air quality attainment plans. Collaborating with agencies like CARB, EPA, and others, the District participates in joint enforcement initiatives, leveraging expertise in enforcing stationary source regulations. Inspectors ensure compliance with operating permits and regulations through detailed on-site reviews of permitted equipment and associated records, including inspections for agricultural and residential burning restrictions.



COMPLAINT RESPONSE

Thousands of complaints received annually prompt timely responses and investigations by District inspectors. Inspectors are on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and the District facilitates complaint submission through automated voicemail, mobile app, online portal, and a bilingual telephone line, ensuring accessibility for all Valley residents.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

Emphasizing compliance assistance, the District offers resources, individualized assistance, training opportunities, workshops, and outreach efforts to help residents and businesses comply with air pollution regulations. Training sessions during inspections, Compliance Assistance Bulletins, and certification courses support compliance efforts.

INSPECTIONS

Routine inspections ensure compliance at new and existing facilities across various sectors, including petroleum refining, manufacturing, agriculture, and more. Activities such as asbestos abatement, construction, and idling diesel trucks are also inspected.

SOURCE TESTING AND MONITORING

The District employs various methods, including specialized monitoring equipment and certified staff, to monitor emissions from facilities. Timely tests aid in identifying and correcting non-compliance. Testing also supports permitting, rule development, planning, and technology advancement efforts.

ENFORCEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

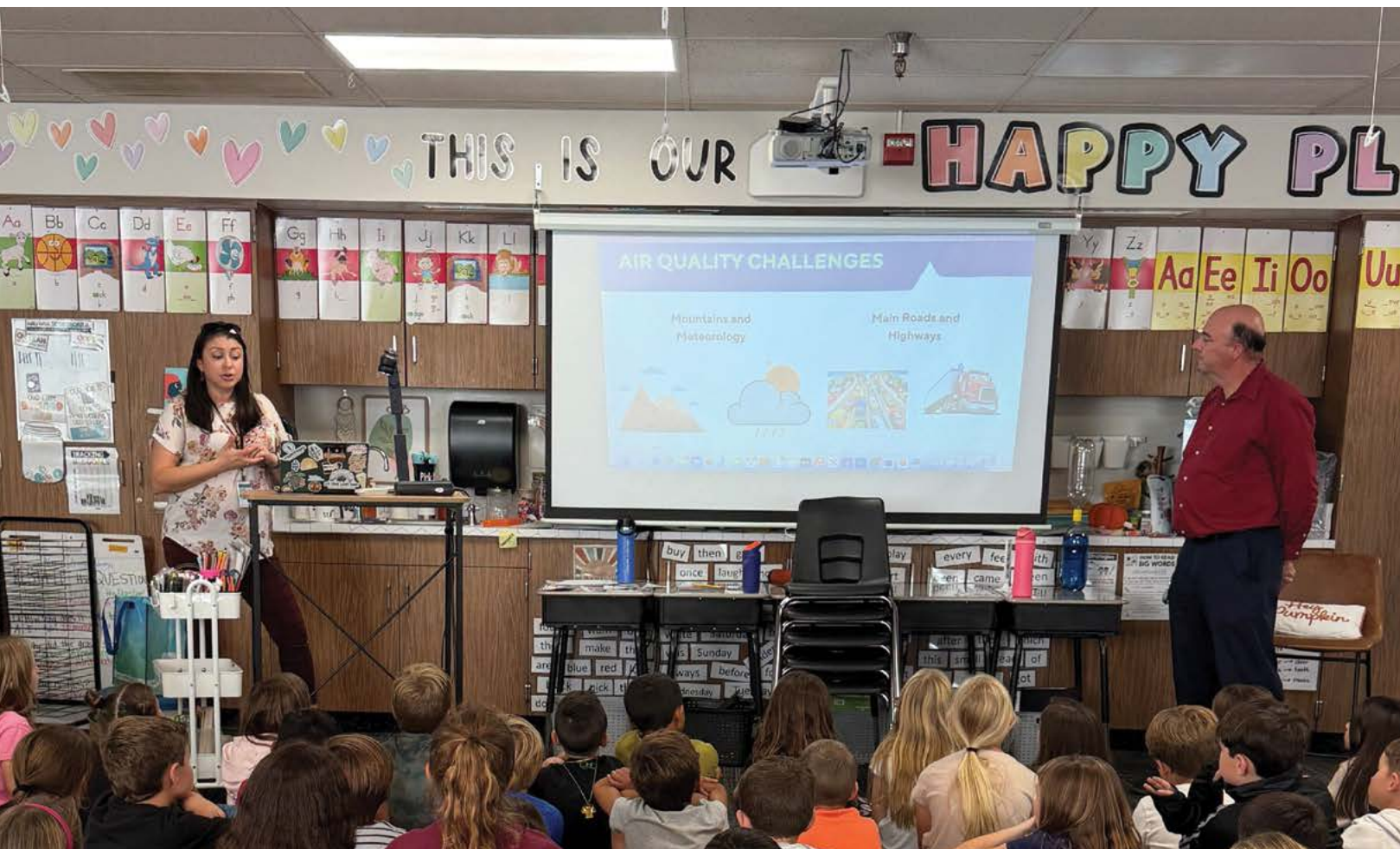
The District prioritizes prompt return to compliance and ongoing education. Cases are settled through a mutual agreements process, with rare cases transferred to District Counsel for formal action.

HEARING BOARDS

Quasi-judicial panels known as Hearing Boards provide temporary relief from District rules and regulations when specific conditions are met. Any excess emissions granted by Hearing Boards represent a small fraction of the Valley's total emissions. In 2025, the District received 51 variance petitions and held 25 Hearing Board meetings.

COMPLIANCE BY THE NUMBERS

31,698	Units Inspected
2,526	Public Complaints Investigated
8,767	Incentive Funding Units Verified (i.e. trucks, tractors)
1,582	Asbestos Projects Reviewed & Inspected



Connecting Communities to Cleaner Air

The District works every day to keep Valley residents informed, engaged, and empowered in the effort to improve air quality. Through strategic outreach, trusted partnerships, and modern communication tools, the District delivers clear and timely air quality information to residents, schools, businesses, media, and community organizations across the Valley. These efforts help people better understand air quality challenges, access available resources, and take practical steps to protect public health.

DIGITAL OUTREACH & SOCIAL MEDIA

The District maintains a strong digital presence to reach Valley residents where they seek information. The District's active social media channels, including Facebook, X, Instagram, Threads, Nextdoor, and LinkedIn, share air quality updates, highlight incentive programs, answer public questions, and encourage two-way communication with the community. Targeted digital advertising further expands the reach of key messages and directs audiences to District resources.

The District's YouTube channel serves as a central hub for educational videos, public service messaging, meeting recordings, and grant program information. Content is produced in-house in both English and Spanish and distributed across digital, cable, and broadcast platforms. These efforts are complemented by Valley Air News, a bi-monthly digital newsletter that provides air quality updates, program highlights, and links to funding opportunities.



MEDIA RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Strong relationships with local and regional media remain essential to the District's outreach efforts. Bilingual press releases and media advisories provide timely information about air quality conditions, public health guidance, regulatory updates, and District initiatives. During major air quality events, such as wildfire smoke or high wind dust events, the District works closely with media partners to ensure accurate and consistent information reaches the public.

PUBLIC AIR QUALITY TOOLS

Access to real-time air quality information continues to grow in importance. The District has strengthened its public-facing air quality tools to support informed decision-making by schools and residents. Integration of EPA's AirNow Air Quality Index alongside District platforms, including the Real-time Air Advisory Network and school initiatives, helps improve consistency and clarity across air quality resources.

These tools support the District's Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) Guidelines, helping schools make informed decisions about outdoor activities. Through the Healthy Air Living Schools program, the District works directly with schools to ensure these resources are clearly understood and used effectively to protect student health.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

District staff participated in numerous community events and outreach opportunities throughout the year, including public education events and partner-hosted programs. These engagements provide valuable opportunities to share air quality information, promote incentive programs, and build stronger relationships with Valley communities.

In recognition of these efforts, the District received a

California Association of Public Information Officers 2025 STAR Award for the Community Clean Air Day event held the previous year. Key 2025 events included an electric heavy-duty truck showcase with Pepsi, participation in World Ag Expo, and a celebration of road and sidewalk improvements in Shafter.

MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH

Ensuring equitable access to air quality information is a core priority. Hundreds of outreach materials—including flyers, brochures, presentations, and reports—are translated in-house to support timely communication in multiple languages. The District also engages Spanish-speaking and bilingual communities through targeted media outreach, community events, and partnerships with trusted local organizations.

CONNECTING THE PUBLIC WITH CLEAN AIR SOLUTIONS

Improving air quality is a shared responsibility, and the District is committed to ensuring communities have access to clean air solutions. Through targeted outreach and partnerships, the District connects residents, businesses, and organizations with incentive programs that support cleaner technologies and reduce emissions. By pairing public education with financial assistance opportunities, the District helps communities take meaningful steps toward a cleaner and healthier Valley.

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS	
77	Media Calls
1,167	Public Calls
9	News Releases
1,480	Social Media Posts
163	Presentations/ Outreach Events

Keep Track of Air Quality to Protect Your Health

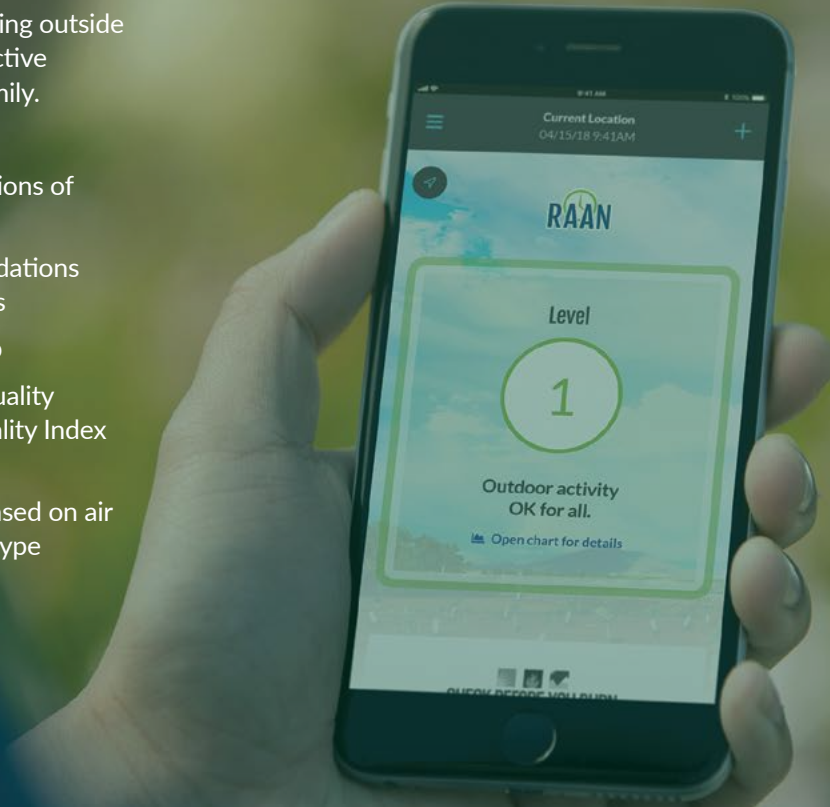
Checking air quality before heading outside can help you make health-protective choices for yourself and your family.

myRAAN.com or Valley Air App

- Access to hourly concentrations of ozone and PM2.5
- Outdoor activity recommendations based on five different levels

AirNow.gov or EPA AirNow App

- Access to current local air quality conditions using the Air Quality Index (AQI)
- Health recommendations based on air quality levels and pollutant type



BAD SMELL? UNUSUAL SMOKE? DUST?

The Valley Air District investigates thousands of complaints each year and the public plays a key role in ensuring regulations are followed.

Visit valleyair.org/complaints, call one of the toll-free complaint lines, or use the **Report Air Quality Issues** feature on the free **Valley Air** app.

Complaints are a high priority and are investigated as soon as possible, including after hours and on weekends.

FILE A COMPLAINT

Northern Region: 1-800-281-7003

San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties

Central Region: 1-800-870-1037

Madera, Fresno and Kings counties

Southern Region: 1-800-926-5550

Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties

Complaints about Smoking Vehicles

1-800-559-9AIR or 1-800-559-9247



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

1990 East Gettysburg Ave
Fresno CA 93726

CONTACT US:

Central Region Office	559.230.6000
Northern Region Office	209.557.6400
Southern Region Office	661.392.5500

valleyair.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

