Air Quality in the San Joaquin Valley

Despite significant progress that has been made, the San Joaquin Valley air basin does not meet state and federal health-based air quality standards. The San Joaquin Valley’s challenges are unmatched anywhere in the nation due to the region's unique geography, meteorology, and topography. To protect public health, the Valley Air District has adopted and implemented stringent control measures and clean-air strategies to reduce emissions.

The Indirect Source Review rule (District Rule 9510), was adopted March 1, 2006, and was the first of its kind to require the deployment of on-site clean air design measures to mitigate project-related air emissions associated with construction and operation of new industrial, commercial, residential, transit, and other non-residential development projects in the Valley. New development projects create air pollution during construction and operation by prompting more vehicle trips and other pollution-causing activities.

The purpose of the Indirect Source Review rule is to reduce growth in both NOx and particulate emissions from mobile and area sources associated with construction and operation of new development projects in the Valley. The goal of the rule is to bring about emission reductions within local communities by encouraging and implementing clean air design measures into development projects.
Off-Site Fees May Apply
If the on-site mitigation measures selected by a developer do not achieve the required emission reductions, the developer is required to pay an off-site fee for balance of the emission reductions required for the project. One hundred percent of the off-site mitigation fees received are used by the District to fund emission reduction projects, e.g. replace school buses, transit buses and other older higher polluting vehicles, retrofit residential fireplaces, replace diesel powered off-road equipment and agricultural tractors.

How to Apply
Get an Indirect Source Review Air Impact Assessment application online at www.valleyair.org/ISR. Submit the application and supporting documents in-person at the nearest District office or via email at ISR@valleyair.org prior to, or concurrent with, the project’s land-use application to the public agency. Payment of an application fee is required at the time of submittal, and the evaluation of the application may be subject additional processing fees at the completion of the review.

The District will notify the applicant within 10 days whether the application is complete. Missing information will delay the processing of the application. Allow up to 30 days from the date the application is deemed complete for the results of the project evaluation. The District will send a notice when the evaluation is complete, indicating whether any off-site fees are required for the project as proposed. If fees are due, the developer can change the project to incorporate more on-site mitigation measures thereby reduce off-site fees, pay immediately, or opt to defer the fees until emissions from the project or project phase are generated.

The project is subject to inspection to verify compliance with on-site mitigation measures.