


San Joaquin Air Proposal Sparks Debate  
Written by [Jonathan Mumm](#), Reporter

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It took over a year of public hearings, workshops, meetings and discussions for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to draft its Proposed 2007 Ozone Plan. But because it seeks an “extreme” non-attainment classification, a number of local community groups and organizations are hoping that at next Monday’s hearing, the district’s governing board will send it back for even further study.

The purpose of the plan is to bring the Valley into attainment with the federal 8-hour ozone standard. The “extreme” classification would allow a delay of attainment until 2023 instead of an earlier deadline of 2013.

“The babies that are born today will have to wait until they graduate high school before they’re able to breathe clean air and that is unacceptable, especially when we know they can do more much sooner,” said Nidia Bautista of the Coalition for Clean Air.

According to SJVAPCD Executive Director Seyed Sadredin, the technology simply does not exist to reach attainment any sooner, even if there were no limit to the amount of money that could be spent. “Meteorologically, the San Joaquin Valley is a bowl with a lid on it,” said Sadredin, making the problem much harder to solve.

Sadredin said the plan would allow a two tier approach. If adopted, ways to reach attainment sooner could still be pursued.

The Coalition for Clean Air and other community and health care advocates, however, want to see acceptance of the proposal delayed, pending further study.

The April 30th hearing will take place by videoconference Monday morning in Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield.



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