



**FACT SHEET
NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING**

Finding of Failure to Attain PM-10 Standards

July 16, 2002

Today's Action: EPA is today issuing a final finding that the San Joaquin Valley failed to achieve consistently healthful levels of particulate matter (PM-10) by its December 31, 2001 Clean Air Act deadline.

How Serious is the Particulate Matter Air Pollution Problem in the San Joaquin Valley?

- Comparing PM-10 levels statewide, the San Joaquin Valley has 3 of the 15 worst violating monitors.
- PM-10 concentrations recorded over the last few years in Fresno and Bakersfield have been as high as 30- 35% above the federal health standard.

What Are the Health Effects of PM-10?

- Particulate matter can accumulate in the respiratory system or penetrate deeply into the lungs and can contribute to health effects such as asthma, decreased lung function, and alterations in respiratory tract defense mechanisms.

What is Causing the Pollution?

- The sources of PM-10 pollution in the San Joaquin Valley range from dust-type sources (e.g., unpaved roads and construction sites) to sources that emit PM-10-forming pollutants such as volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides (e.g., mobile source fuel combustion and manufacturing facilities).

What are the Consequences of Today's Action?

- In response to today's finding, the San Joaquin Valley is required under the Clean Air Act to produce a plan by December 2002 that will reduce particulate matter pollutants by 5% per year until the area attains the federal health standards for PM-10.

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