

## Central Coast wine

The history of wine and its arrival in Santa Barbara County, B1



## Olympics

Watching the world's heroes, A2

# Valley Air District runs incentive programs to reduce car emissions



RAVYN CULLOR

A city-owned vehicle charges at one of Hanford's EV charging stations.

Residents could get money towards purchasing a more efficient car

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Transportation makes up almost 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and the San Joaquin Valley Air District is offering three incentive options to miti-

gate the massive role passenger vehicles play.

According to a 2018 California Air Resource Board report, 28% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the state are from passenger vehicles, followed by in-state power generation and heavy duty vehicles, at 9% and 8% respectively.

Vehicles are also massive contributors to dangerous pollution in the Valley. Brian Dodds, program manager of grants at the San Joaquin

Valley Air District said mobile sources, like transportation and farm equipment, make up for 85% of nitrogen oxide pollution, which causes brown smog and is one of two components in summer ozone creation.

To alleviate the emissions, the Valley Air District offers three programs to either reduce emissions in conventional combustion-engine vehicles or help residents switch over to more efficient cars.

"We'll repair old vehicles which are high polluting, replace those that are older and not repairable or we offer rebates for those who don't qualify for a replacement to encourage adoption of new technologies," said Heather Heinks, outreach and community manager.

Information on all three programs can be found at valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin/. District

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## AROUND THE VALLEY

# Historic drought forces cattlemen to liquidate herds

Weather and drought continues to impact crop production

With most of the rangeland in the Valley dried up, cattlemen are facing "a massive herd liquidation," says Overland Stockyard auctioneer



JOHN LINDT

Dustin Burkhart, based in Hanford. With "no grass from the Sierra to the ocean," Burkhart says he knows multiple cattlemen who have completely sold off their herds while many others

have shipped out 40-50% of their growing beef animals.

"With no other option, cattlemen are forced to buy feed — taking supply away from the area's dairy cows and pushing up corn and hay prices," figures Burkhart. "As the drought gets worse — the prices are just going to go higher, if you can get it." He adds that, "It's a domino effect."

Overland representative, Tyson Howze, says another factor raising hay prices is that more permanent crops have displaced Valley feed-corn and hay fields from years back, reducing local supply and driving up prices that affects dairy operations he works with.

The Hoyt Report says Western states had their lowest May 1 stocks since 2014. States with some of the largest declines include: Arizona: down 56% and California down 48%.

The average price of U.S. alfalfa hay in May jumped \$7 per ton after rising \$6 the previous month, according to USDA's Agricultural Prices report. It was the sixth consecutive month that the alfalfa price posted a month-over-month gain. The average price for Supreme and Premium alfalfa hay increased by \$15 per ton.

One press report says "This is probably the most serious drought California has seen in my existence," said Steve Faria, corporate broker at Turlock Livestock Auction Yard in California's Central Valley. "I've been marketing cattle going on 43 years, and I haven't seen the issues that we're seeing today."

Alfalfa hay prices are at record levels at \$230 per ton today according to USDA, compared to about \$190 this time last year.

Not just here, extremely dry conditions across parts of the country are forcing many cattle producers to make hard culling decisions due to a lack of feed.

The Bakersfield newspaper reports that business has been good lately at the Western Stockman's Market cattle auction in McFarland.

Local ranchers have brought in so many beef cattle since March that the number of sales this year

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BRIAN PETERSON, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

Visitor reads a sign that includes braille translation along the General Grant Tree Trail in Kings Canyon Nation

# Sequoia, Kings Canyon looking for public comment on accessibility

Comment period to kick off Aug. 10 with virtual public meeting

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks want to make their parks more accessible for those with disabilities, and beginning Aug. 10 will be taking public comment on plans to accomplish that.

The parks announced Monday they would be seeking comment on a Draft Accessibility Self Evaluation and Transition Plan, which identifies the key experiences and activities at the parks and the boundaries which exist for people with disabilities to engage in them, according to a press release.

A 33-day comment period will be opened by a virtual public meeting at 5 p.m. Aug. 10.

Through the STRP, the parks hope to make facilities, services,

activities and programs universally accessible. For Sequoia and Kings Canyon, that might include accessing historical sites, the giant sequoias, picnicking and information about the park, the press release said.

The release also notes any recommended actions will be "subject to funding, consultation with other agencies and associated tribes, and compliance with other federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act."

Closed captions will be provided, and an American Sign Language interpreter can be requested at least five days before the meeting by contacting Brian Horton at 559-565-3721. Written comments can be submitted to the park superintendent at the below address.

Superintendent  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
Attn: SEKI SETP  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

# Report: Valley could see 6-9 degree temperature increase by 2100

Climate change to cause more heat, drought, extreme precipitation events

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Climate change projections show the Central Valley will see more hot, dry years like 2021, but also some dangerously wet years as well.

This year has already seen high temperatures, drought and high fire risk for Central Valley residents, and Jordi Vasquez, environmental scientist for the California Department of Water Resources, said climate models show the Central Valley heating up 6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.

While that shift in average temperature may seem slight, Vasquez said it will likely create

big changes. "It will have major impacts," Vasquez said. "The main way is warmer temperatures will cause ... less reliable ground water, which will be harder to manage. On the other side, warmer air holds moisture which can cause more extreme wet periods, with short term bursts of extreme precipitation."

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Statewide Report, published in 2018, projects with very-high or medium-high scientific confidence increased temperatures, heavy precipitation events, drought and acres burned by wildfire, as well as decreased snow pack.

The biggest impact for Central Valley communities like Hanford will be water management, Vasquez said. More frequent drought years will mean an extension of challenges cities are facing this year, like water



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Alkali covers cracked earth at the bottom of a canal on the Avenal Cutoff.

shortages, watering bans and extreme reliance on the aquifer, which isn't being replenished by precipitation.

High mountain areas will also see a decline in snow pack, Vasquez said, and increasing temperatures have already pushed the Sierra snowpack up 500 feet in elevation.

These stressors on water

management will impact both residents and agriculture, which will rely increasingly on non-aquifer water sources as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act tapers down farmer's pumping from the vulnerable aquifer, Vasquez said.

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