

# WHO'S IN CHARGE?

The valley air district governing board has 11 members. Eight are county supervisors representing the region's eight counties from San Joaquin to Kern. Three are city council members, one each from the northern, central and southern areas of the valley. Three of them represent the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

## The controversy:

Activists don't believe the local air district board pays enough attention to health issues. "There has been a lack of trust in this board," said Liza Bolaños, Fresno-based coordinator of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition. Legislation was created to expand the board so big cities would have more representation and medical experts could guide health discussions.

## What happened:

The first bill, SB 999, failed. In the process, sharp political divisions emerged. The board battled activists and two Democratic state senators, Michael Machado of Linden and Dean Florez of Shafter. A second attempt, SB 719, had more public support and was signed into law in October. It adds four members. Two members with medical expertise would be appointed by the governor. Two members would represent large valley cities and would be appointed by city councils.

## The hope:

The expanded board will bring the air district and activists together for the fight against pollution.

## AREA MEMBERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD



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