



# MADERA

Publication of the Madera County Transportation Commission

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## Road 26 and Avenue 17 to be Reconstructed

Madera Country Club area residents can expect to see improved roadway access on Road 26 into the City of Madera and on Avenue 17 to the State Route 99 interchange.

The conditions of the existing roadways warrant reconstruction and do not meet design standards for modern truck loading. The two projects, funded entirely by Measure "A", the ½ cent sales tax for transportation projects in Madera County, are scheduled for construction in the Spring of 2004.

In 1997, the County of Madera completed a lane widening and reconstruction project on Road 26 from the Madera city limits to Avenue 17.

The \$3.5 million Measure "A" project upgraded Road 26 from a two-lane rural road with minimal shoulders to a four-lane arterial with 8 foot shoulders including curbs and gutters.

The projects, on Road 26 from Mateo Way to Avenue 18 and on Avenue 17 from Hill Drive to State Route 99, will build upon the progress made to upgrade those facilities in 1997.

According to Bob Townsend, Madera County Road Commissioner, these projects will improve safety and relieve traffic congestion for residents and commuters in the area.

"The Road 26 and Avenue 17 projects reflect a commitment to continue to deliver on the promises made to the voters with the passage of Measure "A" in 1990," states Townsend.

The projects will be completed in two phases that will ultimately result in a five-lane arterial with curb gutter and sidewalks on each segment.

The first phase includes the design, right-of-way, and utility relocation of an ultimate five-lane arterial and construction  
*(Please see ROAD PROJECTS, page 3)*



Road 26 and Avenue 17 are scheduled to be reconstructed, beginning in the Spring of 2004

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## Burning Questions About Your Fireplace

### Fireplace/ Woodstove

Air quality forecast:  
good or  
moderate.

No wood-  
burning  
restrictions

Learn to  
burn clean  
at 1-800  
SMOG INFO or  
[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

### Burning Status

### Fireplace/ Woodstove

Air quality forecast:  
unhealthy  
for  
sensitive  
groups.

Wood  
burning  
discouraged

Choose not to  
light midnight  
to midnight. Info:  
1-800 SMOG INFO  
or [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

### Burning Status

### Fireplace/ Woodstove

Air quality forecast:  
unhealthy.  
Burning  
wood,  
pellets or  
manufactured logs is  
prohibited  
from midnight  
to midnight. 1-800  
SMOG INFO.

Wood  
burning  
prohibited

### Burning Status

You've probably heard about the new air restrictions regarding wood-burning fireplace and stove use beginning November 1. In an effort to clean up the air, the San Joaquin Valley Air District has approved new amendments to Rule 4901 - Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters. To better acquaint residents with the issues, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has prepared frequently asked questions. More details can be obtained by calling the Air District at 559-230-5800 in the central valley, 209-557-6400 in the northern valley, 661-326-6900 in the south, or by visiting their website, [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Will the Air District ban fireplace burning completely?**

**A:** No. The Air District will only restrict burning on 4 to 25 of the most polluted nights each winter. Since restrictions will be issued only for specific areas where airborne particle levels are unhealthy, there is a strong likelihood that not all restricted days will affect everyone.

**Q: Where will I find the daily wood-burning status for my county?**

**A:** Valley residents may call 1-800 SMOG INFO or log onto [valleyair.org](http://valleyair.org). Watch for these symbols in major daily newspapers, radio and television weather reports. They will communicate the daily wood-burning status for your county.

**Q: Are there any exemptions to burning restrictions?**

**A:** Yes, as follows:  
Gas and propane devices would be exempt altogether. Homes where wood burning is the sole source of heat. Devices used above 3000' elevation. Areas where natural gas service is not available.

**Q: How will the rule be enforced?**

**A:** District inspectors will perform surveillance and respond to and investigate complaints. Noted violations of the applicable rule requirements are subject to

enforcement action that will include fines. The penalty amount will depend on a number of factors, including how many times a resident has been previously cited. If you wish to file an air pollution complaint, please contact the District's Compliance Division by calling the regional office nearest you.

**Q: Why not tackle major polluters like big industries rather than small polluters such as fireplaces?**

**A:** Over the past decade, the District has reduced smog-forming emissions from businesses and industrial sources by fifty percent. Despite the fact that the District has been successful at controlling emissions from businesses, we still do not meet federal health-based standards. For that reason, the District cannot ignore a source that contributes 24 tons per day of particulate matter during the winter.

**Q: Is there a big difference between newer wood burning devices and older ones?**

**A:** The most efficient "solid-fuel" device is a pellet stove that emits from 1.2 to 1.0 grams per hour of particulate matter. A gas stove or insert emits .07 grams per hour. An open fireplace burning wood emits 47 grams per hour of particulate matter as opposed to a fireplace with an EPA-certified insert that emits 6 grams per hour of particulate matter.

## City of Madera Receives Natural Gas Award

When it comes to clean fuel vehicles, the City of Madera is on the edge.

With nearly 25 percent of the City's vehicle fleet converted to natural gas, compared to most Valley cities' fleet hovering around 10 percent, Madera is pushing the early-adoption envelope to minimize air pollution and their decision has not gone unnoticed.

The Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) Coalition recently awarded the City with its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Achievement Award at the National NGV Conference in Las Vegas.

Partnering with local compressed natural gas fuel supplier, Tesei Petroleum, the City of Madera has been honored for its voluntary efforts to convert existing fossil-fuel vehicles to cleaner burning natural gas.

With 38 natural gas vehicles already in

its fleet, the City of Madera is willing to go even further.

The City is looking to add \$450,000 worth of natural gas vehicles this year, including two new natural gas street sweepers.

So the next time you see a natural gas city vehicle, breathe easy knowing that Madera is working hard to stay on the cutting edge of cleaner burning vehicle fleets.



## Road Projects: Phase I reconstruction will improve traffic flow

*(Continued from page 1)*

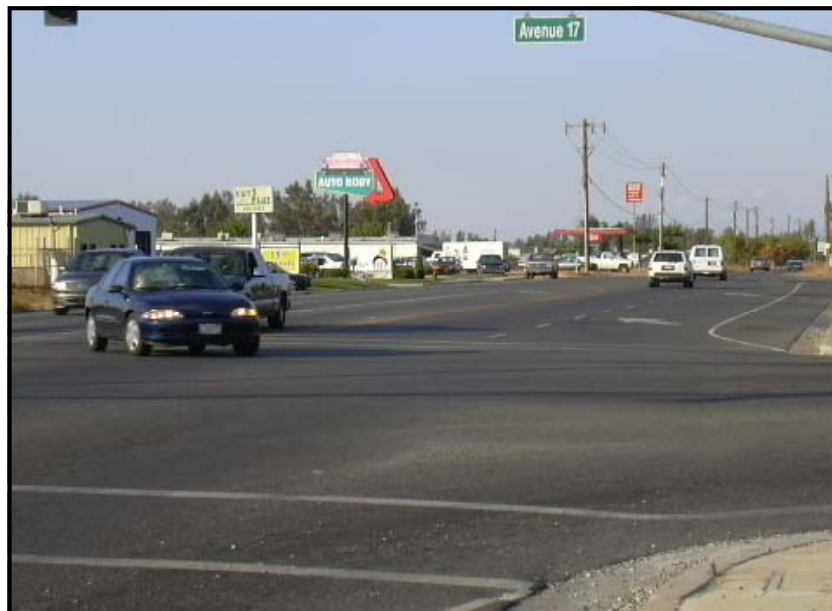
of a three-lane facility.

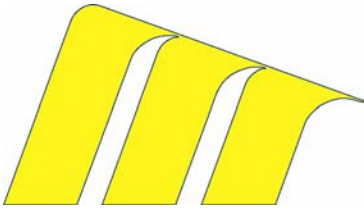
Phase II will commence as performance indicators register the congestion required to justify the widening of each roadway to four travel lanes. Phase II is also contingent upon the availability of funding.

The following road improvements will be made during Phase I:

- ◆ Road 26 - Total width of 54 feet of paved roadway consisting of (two) 12' travel lanes, (one) 14' continuous turn lane in the center of the roadway, and (two) 8' shoulders. The relocation of approximately 48 utility poles.
- ◆ Avenue 17 - Total width of 54 feet of paved roadway consisting of (two) 12' travel lanes, (one) 14' continuous turn lane in the center of the roadway, and (two) 8' shoulders. Widening of the Madera Irrigation Canal a distance of approximately 40 feet on the south side of Avenue 17 (completed in 2002). The relocation of approximately nine utility poles.

The cost for each project which includes engineering, environmental, right-of-way, and construction is projected to total \$1,525,000 for Road 26 and \$1,763,000 for Avenue 17. The funding is entirely provided through Measure "A" program allocations to the County of Madera.





## Madera County Transportation Commission

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## Madera County Transportation Authority & Madera County Transportation Commission

# 2004 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held in the Madera County Government Center Board of Supervisor's Chambers at 209 West Yosemite Avenue, Madera, California. Authority commences at 2:30 p.m. Commission commences at 3:00 p.m.

January	21	July	21
February	18	August*	18
March	17	September	22
April	21	October	20
May	19	November	17
June	23	December	No meeting

\* August is a normally scheduled recess. If there is a need for a meeting, the date shown for that month will be used.