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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TULARE COUNTY ESSAY, POSTER CONTEST SEEKS ENTRIES

VISALIA — It's time for Tulare County students to grab paper, pencils, crayons and paint to enter the 6th annual "Make A Difference in Air Quality" student essay and poster contest.

Students have until May 23 to enter the contest, which teaches our community how to make alternative choices to clean our air. To enter the contest coordinated by the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), students must write an essay or create a poster illustrating how their families make a difference in our air quality by carpooling, biking, walking, riding skateboards, riding buses, or by conserving energy.

"This contest is a lesson on air quality that teachers can take to the classroom," said Elizabeth Wright, associate regional planner for TCAG. "Children can make a difference in our air quality. They can make decisions every day that will clean up the air."

Essay and poster winners in each category — grades K-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12 — will get \$250 gift cards that can be used to buy new bikes, helmets, bike accessories, scooters or skateboards. Two grand prize winners from both the essay and poster contest will receive \$500 gift cards. Prizes are courtesy of College of the Sequoias' Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Program, The Lagomarsino Group, TPG Consulting Inc., Tucoemas Federal Credit Union, Tulare County Office of Education and Visalia City Coach.

Essays should run between one to two pages and posters should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper (turned horizontally). Entries should include contestant's name, address, grade, school and phone number. For consideration, entries must be mailed by May 23 to The Lockwood Agency, 500 N. Willis St., Visalia, CA 93291. Entries can also be submitted by e-mail to bkelch@thelockwoodagency.net. Contestants may enter both categories.

Winners will be announced June 7 in the Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register. Last year more than 400 students across Tulare County participated in the "Make A Difference in Air Quality" essay and poster contest. Other sponsors include TCAG and Westcoast Broadcasting Inc.

For more information, call Becky Loyd-Kelch at 733-3737 or visit www.tularecog.org .

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