Valley residents can get up to $9,500 to replace high polluting vehicles
Hanford Sentinel, Friday, September 14, 2018

The Valley Air District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin program just launched a new vehicle replacement option, offering a huge incentive for Valley residents to replace their 1999 or older high-polluting vehicle with a newer, fuel efficient gas powered vehicle, hybrid, plug-in hybrid or battery electric vehicle.

The new "Replace" option offers $2,500 to $9,500 for residents in the eight-county Valley air basin. The incentive amount is based on the replacement vehicle and the applicant's household income. Specifically, the program is available to individuals whose household income is at or below 400 percent of federal poverty level. Residents living in disadvantaged communities (determined by zip code) that choose to purchase a hybrid, plug-in hybrid or zero-emission vehicle can receive a higher funding amount. An additional $2,500 may be available through the California Air Resources Board if a new clean vehicle is selected.

While meteorology, geography and topography play a key role in the Valley's air pollution problems, motor vehicles are the largest source of emissions. Since the Valley Air District does not hold regulatory authority over tail pipe emissions, a robust grants and incentives program is among its many strategies to reduce air pollution and protect public health in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Replace option is the latest piece to the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin incentive program which has long offered "Repair" and "Rebate" options which provide funding for residents to repair their emission plagued vehicles or a rebate for the lease or purchase of newer technology like hybrid and electric vehicles.

Interested individuals can start their vehicle replacement application online, anytime, at www.valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin.

For more information, call a District office in Fresno (230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).