



Air District puts clean trucks on the road

The Valley Air District recently completed a year-long process to replace 548 high-polluting diesel trucks and will make \$62 million available in 2011 for more diesel replacement and retrofit projects. Applications for new truck replacement and retrofits will be accepted beginning in March.

The District has aggressively pursued state and federal funding for clean air projects throughout the Valley resulting in a 10-fold increase in available funding over the past five years. "These funds are critical not only to the health of Valley residents through cleaner air, but also to the Valley's economic vitality," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director. "Strategic use of these funds will expedite clean air efforts in the Valley while helping residents and businesses," he added.

2,900 applications for diesel emission-reduction grants were reviewed in 2010 as part of the grant process. The District also expects new funding generated from recently enacted DMV fees to be used for these and other programs targeted at reducing emissions from mobile sources.

Mobile sources account for the majority of the Valley's air pollution. Trucks, passenger vehicles and buses produce 56.8 percent of total nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions in the air basin. Last year, the District's truck grants removed more than 6,000 tons of NOx.

For more information Districts incentive grants, please call 559-230-5800 or visit www.valleyair.org.

Hot off the press: 2010 Annual Report

By Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director, Air Pollution Control Officer

The Air District's actions, initiatives and challenges of the past year are detailed in the just-released 2010 Annual Report.

The Air District invites the public to review this report and provide feedback and suggestions on how the Valley can best address the enormous air quality challenges it faces.

The significant contributions from Valley businesses and municipalities in reducing emissions, and the important role the public can play in bringing continued air quality improvements to the Valley, are among the report's highlights.

In 2010, important new rules were put into place, such as Employer Based Trip Reduction (eTRIP), and existing rules, such as those affecting agricultural open burning, were strengthened.

The Healthy Air Living Partner program was expanded with increased outreach and special events designed to enhance public awareness of emission reduction opportunities.

In response to a continued struggling economy, the Governing Board extended the Economic Assistance Initiative, and staff has accelerated state and federal grant applications and funding distributions.

Top scientists and stakeholders from throughout the state and the nation collaborated with the Air District in 2010, ensuring the agency is on the cutting edge of scientific and technological advancements in formulating air quality control policy.

As a result, the District is a resource for Valley businesses and municipalities navigating new climate change mandates.

It's been the cleanest year on record, but, the Valley continues to face exceptional air quality challenges, and still records a high number of days that exceed the state and federal health-based standards for ozone and particulate matter.

With continued cooperation from all sectors of the Valley, the District will face the unmatched challenges ahead effectively and efficiently.

Visit the Air District's website to submit comments and ideas, or write: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726.