

Highlights

District Activities for August 2005



August 18, 2005 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board approved an agreement with consultant Sonoma Technology to examine **selected growth factors that are used to estimate emission levels** in future years. The goal is to develop county specific growth factors to replace the existing default growth factors. In a cooperative effort with the CARB, the District has undertaken several projects to improve its emission inventory. These allow the District to take advantage of new emission source data and the latest techniques in inventory development, which in turn provide a solid base for future efforts to reduce emissions in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Board moved to postpone a vote on the **2005 Edition of the Air Quality Guidelines for General Plans** until the September meeting. The guidelines incorporate shifts in regulations, science, and practices that have occurred since the document was first approved in 1994. The 2005 Edition will assist Valley cities and counties as they amend their general plans to include goals, policies and implementation strategies to improve air quality as required by state regulations. This additional month will allow organizations more time to review the substantial document.
- Board approved an agreement with the **American Lung Association for a School Flag Program** for the 2005-06 school year in the amount of \$40,000. Now in its second year, the program provides San Joaquin Valley schools with air quality education and a set of four flags that signify the day's Air Quality Index level. The goal is to keep parents and children advised of unhealthy air conditions, particularly for students with asthma and allergies.
- A \$20,000 agreement with Enterprise for Education Corp. was approved to fund the "Clean Air Challenge" **curriculum program for San Joaquin Valley middle and high schools.**
- During the Citizens' Advisory Committee Report, staff clarified that **Proposed Rule 9310 (School Bus Fleets)** will be brought before the Governing board by the end of 2006. It currently calls for phased in compliance by school districts beginning in 2010. Furthermore, both the Governing Board and staff are working to facilitate a variety of possible funding sources to provide financial assistance to pay for new buses and retrofits. The goal of the proposed rule is to reduce emissions from school buses that transport K-12 students in public and private schools.

New and Upcoming Rules

- Amid support from scientists, the District released the final **APCO's Determination of VOC Emission Factors for Dairies** August 1 following workshops and comments. The updated dairy emission factor was set at 19.3 lbs. of VOCs per head of dairy cattle per year. The figure will help determine how many dairies in the air basin will require permits.

- A public workshop will be held Sept. 1 on **Rules 9510 & 3180 (DESIGN)**, formerly ISR. Following the end of the comment period, staff will review comments and make further amendments to the proposed rules.
- District staff is reviewing comments received on **proposed Rule 4694 (Wine Fermentation and Storage Tanks)** prior to making amendments to the proposed rule. The intent of the new rule is to eliminate the ethanol vapors created during fermentation. Ethanol - the alcohol component of wine - is a VOC. Of the Valley's 109 wineries, only the 18 largest are affected by the rule because they create 95 percent of the air basin's ethanol emissions. A public workshop will be scheduled in September and a final rule will be presented to the Board in November.

July Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

- In July, the District responded to 98 news media inquiries, 72 public inquires and conducted six public outreach activities. Most of the media calls involved the Dairy Emissions Factor, and we received calls from several national outlets including the LA Times, Washington Post and NPR. In addition, the District issued three press releases dealing with the Dairy Emissions Factor Final Report, the Clean Air Kids Calendar Contest and Modesto Tallow.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- The District began receiving the first applications for the PG&E Ag ICE Program (Ag Pump Electrification)
- \$340,000 in REMOVE II grant funds were placed under contract in July for qualifying projects.
- \$470,000 was paid out in Claims for Payment in July.

Upcoming Meetings

2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings begin at 10 a.m.

September 6, 2005
October 4, 2005

No November 2005 Meeting
December 6, 2005

2005 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

Meetings begin at 9 a.m.

September 15, 2005
October 20, 2005

November 17, 2005
December 15, 2005