

Highlights

District Activities for October 2005



October 20, 2005 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board approved an **air quality mitigation agreement** with PB Ventures, LLC, to provide funding to reduce emissions from the Old River Ranch development project in metropolitan Bakersfield. The agreement requires that PB Ventures provide \$4,239,000 to mitigate 283 tons per year of emissions that will be generated by the buildout of the 1,850-acre project site. The District will use the funds to purchase emission reductions through a variety of projects and will provide long-term monitoring and enforcement of the reductions.
- The Governing Board approved a request from the San Joaquin Valley Transportation Planning Agencies to provide matching funds of \$500,000 to support the \$10 million **San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Project**. Primary funding would be from a Caltrans grant. The project is intended to provide a blueprint for development over the next 20 years that supports both economic and environmental goals for the entire San Joaquin Valley.
- The Governing Board approved the **Amendments to the 2004 Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan**. As a result of the Board's approval, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can continue to process the ozone plan for inclusion into the State Implementation Plan. EPA must act on plan approval by May 15, 2006.
- The Governing Board authorized the Emission Reduction Incentive Program Department to apply for the maximum amount of eligible **Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program funds** each year through 2015. ERIP has applied for about \$13 million in Moyer funds for Year VIII, which will be available January 2006.
- The Governing Board adopted new **Rule 4308** (Boilers, Steam Generators, Process Heaters - 0.075 MMBtu/hr to 2.0 MMBtu/hr) and new **Rule 4905** (Natural Gas-Fired Fan Type Residential Central Furnaces). These rules set emission standards for new and replacement equipment sold for use in the Valley. Due to the small size of these units, permits, registration or early replacement will not be required. When fully implemented, these rules could each reduce over two tons per day of nitrogen oxides, a pollutant which forms ozone in the summer months and particulate matter in the winter months.
- The Governing Board adopted new **Rule 3135** (Dust Control Plan Fee) that allows the District to collect fees to recover the costs associated with reviewing and approving Dust Control Plans and conducting subsequent field inspections of these sites. District **Rule 8021** (Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction and Other Earthmoving Activities) requires an owner or operator of any construction project to submit a Dust Control Plan to the District for review and approval at least 30 days prior to commencing any dust generating activity. Plans are required for any construction activity at a site that will involve: 10 or more acres of disturbed surface area for residential developments; five or more acres of disturbed surface area for non-residential developments; or moving, depositing, or relocating 2,500 cubic yards of bulk materials on at least three days.
- The District presented a report to the Board on the **Pursuit of Alternative Compliance Strategies**. As the District begins to look at additional rules, some of the required measures will be costly and technologically imposing. These alternatives to the traditional "command and control" strategies will give the regulated community more flexibility, enhance cost-

effectiveness and achieve the air quality objective through market-based incentives. The proposed winery rule, Draft Rule 4694, is a pilot project to test some of these strategies.

New and Upcoming Rules

The final workshop on **Draft Rule 4694** (Wine Fermentation and Storage Tanks) was held Oct. 11. The purpose of the rule is to reduce VOCs from the fermentation and bulk storage of wine or achieve equivalent reductions through alternative emission sources. The draft rule would require a 35-percent reduction in total fermentation emissions, which equates to 224 to 262 tons of VOCs per year. The rule is the first in the nation to address winery production emissions. Staff will propose it for adoption by the Board at a public hearing December 15.

Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

During September, the Public Information Department issued three news releases (Ag Burning Rules, PM 10 attainment Goals, End of Spare the Air Season) and responded to 90 media calls on these and other District topics. 89 public calls were recorded in September and staff participated in seven outreach events around the Valley to raise air quality awareness.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received **53** Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications in September for a total of **312** engines to date.
- **\$206,000** in REMOVE II grant funds was placed under contract in September for qualifying projects.
- **\$682,833** was paid out in Claims in September.
- ERIP will participate in the following upcoming outreach activities to promote grant fund opportunities:
 - 11/1- 4 – Ag ICE Compliance Deadline and Financial Assistance Workshops
 - 10/27 – Operation Clean Air Clean Air Summit
 - 11/10 – PG&E Natural Gas Vehicle Workshop

Upcoming Meetings

2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Schedule – Meetings begin at 10 a.m.

December 6, 2005

2006 Citizens Advisory Committee Schedule

January 3, 2006

February 7, 2006

March 7, 2006

April 4, 2006

May 2, 2006

June 6, 2006

NO JULY 2006 MEETING

August 1, 2006

September 5, 2006

October 3, 2006

NO NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING

December 5, 2006

2005 Governing Board Schedule – Meetings begin at 9 a.m.

November 17, 2005

December 15, 2005

2006 Governing Board Schedule

January 19, 2006

February 16, 2006

March 16, 2006

April 20, 2006

May 18, 2006

June 15, 2006

NO JULY 2006 MEETING

August 17, 2006

September 21, 2006

October 19, 2006

NO NOVEMBER 2006 MEETING

December 21, 2005