

Highlights

District Activities for May 2006



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

May 18, 2006 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board received a report on the “**State of the State Air Quality**” from Jeff Lindberg, Planning Liaison for the Air Quality & Transportation Planning Branch of the California Air Resources Board. The presentation covered the progress that has been achieved in reducing Californians’ exposure to unhealthy air, and improving air quality in the state to meet state and federal standards. The presentation outlined:
 - Dramatic drop in number of days over the 8 hour ozone standard
 - Analysis which demonstrated real air quality progress in the SJV
 - Normal summer weather patterns were accompanied by improved air quality
 - PM 2.5 concentrations are declining
 - **Significant progress is being made with both ozone and PM**
- The Governing Board held a special public hearing before the regular meeting to review the District’s 2006-07 Recommended Budget and give the public an opportunity to comment. June 15 was set for a public hearing to consider adoption of the budget. In spite of significant enhancements to District programs, the operating budget reflects only a minor increase in spending.
- The Governing Board amended **Rule 4352 (Solid Fuel Fired Boilers, Steam Generators, Process Heaters)** and **Rule 4603 (Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products)**. The amendment to rule 4352 was required to satisfy federal Clean Air Act requirements and extended the rule applicability to include sources emitting between 10 and 25 tons/year. The Rule 4603 amendment allows greater flexibility in paint spray equipment selection, provided the alternate equipment is as clean as the current equipment.
- The Governing Board received and filed the following items and set June 15 for public hearings to consider their adoption.
 - Proposed **Rule 4570 (Confined Animal Facilities)**
 - Amendments to **Rule 4311 (Flares)**
 - Proposed 2006 State Contingency Addendum for the San Joaquin Valley **PM10 State Implementation Plan (SIP)**
- The Governing Board accepted \$3.5 million in San Joaquin Valley Emergency Clean Air Attainment Program (VECAP) funds from CALTRANS for the District’s Heavy-Duty Engine Emission Reduction Incentive Program.
- The Governing Board approved the purchase of the Northern region office building from P & N Properties for \$3.37 million.

Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

Public Information responded to 39 news media inquiries and 90 public calls in April. The District issued three news releases concerning the draft Rule 4570, Confined Animal Facilities, PM10 attainment and the lawnmower program. Staff also attended community events commemorating Earth Day as well as other outreach events in all three regions.

District staff is preparing for the major spring public outreach event, **Clean Green Yard Machines**, the annual lawn mower trade-in program. The event kicks off in Bakersfield May 20, followed by Visalia on June 3, Fresno on June 10, Merced on June 17 and Stockton on June 24. Valley residents who turn in a gas-powered lawnmower can purchase a clean-burning cordless electric mower by Neuton for just \$150, which is a 60% discount. The event is a fitting lead-in to 2006 **Spare the Air** season, which begins June 6.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received **seven** Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications in April for a total of **30** engines. The District has received **206** applications to-date for a total of **761** engines.
- **\$152,965.00** in heavy-duty component REMOVE II grant funds was placed under contract in April.
- **\$925,651.00** was paid out in Heavy-Duty Program component claims in April.

AG Engines - 18	\$435,514
Off Road - 6	\$375,808
On-Road - 4	\$114,329
Off Road - 7	\$564,693
On-Road - 2	\$212,068

Operation Overview

- **Compliance** conducted 1,331 inspections in April and issued 69 NOVs. 206 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 241 applications and issued 335 permits in April.
- **Planning** received 219 environmental documents and held eight rule and plan workshops in April. Two rules were adopted and 58 smoking vehicles were reported.

Other District News

More than **200 attendees took part in a one-day symposium on air-quality research** May 17 in Fresno. Sup. Barbara Patrick, Seyed Sadredin and Jim Sweet, along with Air Resources Board staff, were among the presenters at “Central California Air Quality Research: How Science Is Charting a Path to Cleaner Air.” The event highlighted the results of the Central California Ozone Study (CCOS) and the California Regional Particulate and Air Quality Study (CRPAQS). Dr. John Watson, of the Desert Research Institute, a principal investigator for the CRPAQS study, was the keynote luncheon speaker. The District hosted the symposium along with the ARB and the Central California Air Quality Studies Government-Private Sector Partnership.

Rick McVaigh was selected as Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer in May. Rick served most recently as the District’s Director of Compliance. He joined the District when it was formed in 1992, after working in air pollution control for Kings County and in private industry. In 1994, he was named as the District’s Technical Services Manager and led District efforts to identify sources of emissions and assess potential health effects. He also managed air quality engineering functions in the District’s permit services department until 2005. He holds a bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

“Rick has played a key role working with Valley stakeholders in some of the District’s most innovative and successful efforts to reduce emissions,” Seyed Sadredin said. “His strong technical background and proven leadership skills will be a great asset for the District as we face the challenges that lay ahead.”

Upcoming Meetings

Citizens’ Advisory Committee – 10 am Tues., Jun 6

Governing Board – 9 a.m. Thurs., June 15