

District Activities for September 2006

September 21 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Air District Executive Director announced that air-monitoring data from 2003-05 shows that the San Joaquin Valley air basin now meets a **federal health-based standard** for particulate matter 2.5 microns or less, or PM_{2.5}.

“This unprecedented accomplishment was made possible only by the actions of the Air District’s Governing Board, major investments in clean-air technology by Valley businesses and support from the general public,” the Executive Director said.
- The Governing Board adopted **Rule 9310 (School Bus Fleets)**. The new rule would require school bus operators to replace their oldest school buses and add air-pollution controls to their newer buses. These requirements will significantly reduce exposure of the passengers and Valley residents to hazardous diesel exhaust. The District, through its grant and incentive programs, will continue to work with Valley school districts to identify funding to reduce school bus fleet emissions and provide the safest air-quality environment for Valley school bus riders.
- The Governing Board adopted **Rule 4612 (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Refinishing Operations, Phase 2)**. The new rule reduces emissions by incorporating recently adopted California standards for low-solvent automotive coatings and provides uniform rule compliance guidelines for Valley operators.
- The Governing Board amended **Rule 2020 (Exemptions)** and **Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule)** to incorporate existing state law requirements for permitting agricultural sources of air emissions. The amendments will have no impact on the processes and methodologies that the District is already applying to the permitting of agricultural sources and serve merely to clarify how the state law and District regulations already work in tandem.
- The Board approved several voluntary **Air Quality Mitigation Agreements**. Castle & Cooke Commercial-Ca, Inc., will pay \$589,625 to mitigate air quality impacts of the proposed Gosford Village development project, \$1,274,328 for the proposed Stockdale Ranch development and \$2,489,693 for the proposed Gateway Village project. Additionally, Panama 99 Properties agreed to pay \$905,679 for the proposed Panama Lane and Highway 99 commercial development. Emission reductions will result from the purchase of cleaner engines and low-emission vehicles, from the installation of retrofit devices and from other types of projects through the District’s Emission Reduction Incentive Program.
- The Board received and filed **Proposed Rule 2250 (Permit Exempt Equipment Registration)** and **Rule 3155 (Permit Exempt Equipment Registration Fees)** and set October 19 for a public hearing to consider adoption.
- Marjorie Kirn, of the Merced County Assn. of Governments, gave an overview of progress made on the **SJV Regional Blueprint Project**, which is funded in part by the District. The Blueprint Project calls for the eight San Joaquin Valley COGs, along with the Great Valley Center and the District, to work together to preserve and improve the Valley’s quality of life. Each COG is facilitating a dialogue among the communities, cities and counties to take local control of the future they create for themselves. The project looks at long-term transportation and land use decisions for the Valley from both technical and policy standpoints.

Public Information, Legislative, Outreach and Education

The Board voted to continue funding for the District’s school education and outreach programs. The American Lung Association received \$40,000 to continue its work on the **air quality flag program**. During the 2005-06 school year, 135 schools in five counties participated. The remaining Valley

counties also have Air District-sponsored flag programs through different partner organizations. The **Clean Air Challenge**, a middle and high school air quality curriculum, was funded in the amount of \$30,000 through Enterprise for Education Corp. And, for the first time, the District, in conjunction with CSUF, is presenting a class in air quality management. More than forty students have signed up for the certificate program, which runs Sept. 22-Dec. 15.

Spare the Air days were called Aug. 10 and 24 in Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties to bring the season total at the end of August to 21 days. Kings and Merced counties recorded one Spare the Air day Aug. 24, while Madera, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties had no Spare the Air days in August. Season totals as of Aug. 31 were: 21 days for Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties; 18 days for Merced County; 16 days for Kings County; 12 days for Stanislaus County and 9 days for San Joaquin.

The District issued two news releases in August: one to promote the 2007 Clean Air Kids Calendar contest and one to announce the upcoming air-quality class. Public information staff also provided public outreach and awareness information at six events or meetings. Staff responded to 97 public calls and 22 media calls in August.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received a total of **45** applications for the incentive programs in August.
- The District received **15** agricultural engine electrification (AG ICE) applications in August for a total of **30** engines. To date, **251** AG ICE applications have been received for a total of **716** engines.
- **\$8,098,557.20** in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- **\$3,459,602.72** was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in August.
 - Ag Engines – **34** **\$1,047,144.00**
 - Off-Road Engines - **8** **\$ 124,396.00**
 - On-Road Engines - **20** **\$2,288,062.72**
- **\$95,950.00** was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in August.

August Operation Overview

- **Planning** received 247 environmental documents and held 12 rule and plan workshops. Two rules were adopted.
- **Compliance** conducted 1,989 inspections and issued 198 NOVs. 218 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 230 applications and issued 367 permits in August.
- **ERIP** received 80 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Citizens' Advisory Committee –10 a.m. Tues., Oct. 3

Governing Board – 9 a.m. Thurs., Oct. 19