

Highlights

District Activities for February 2006



February 16, 2006 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted the **2006 PM10 Plan**. This plan update is required by EPA's approval of the *2003 PM10 Plan*. It uses the latest technical information, including an updated emissions inventory, more current air quality data and results from the California Regional Particulate Air Quality Study (CRPAQS), to verify the effectiveness of the District's control strategy for attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10. Based on this midcourse review, the District has found that the current control strategy satisfies the attainment demonstration and reasonable further progress requirements. As such, the District is not adding any control measures that were not included in the approved *2003 PM10 Plan* at this time. All but two control measures in the District's PM10 control strategy have been adopted and the remaining two are scheduled for adoption in 2006.

The Plan shows that the District will meet the reduction requirements and achieve PM10 attainment of the 24-hour and annual PM10 federal standards before 2010. PM10 air quality has dramatically improved in recent years and federal reference monitoring data from 2003-05 shows no violations in the San Joaquin Valley. The plan is due to be submitted to the EPA by March 31, 2006.

- The Governing Board adopted the **Natural Events Action Plan**. The *NEAP* is developed to protect public health in the event that a high wind "NEAP event" may cause an uncontrollable PM10 exceedance. The *NEAP* includes criteria for forecasting possible NEAP events as well as steps for notifying the public that such an event may occur. This is the first *NEAP* for the District.
- **Dr. Robert F. Sawyer**, new Chairman of the California Air Resources Board, was introduced to the Governing Board. He was appointed by Gov. Schwarzeneger in December 2005 and visited the District as part of a Valley ag tour.
- The Governing Board approved an agreement to implement the **Statewide Railroad Pollution Reduction Agreement** in the Valley air basin. The agreement secures the commitment of Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway to use approved strategies to reduce locomotive emissions. About 26 tons of nitrogen oxides .76 tons of particulate matter are produced in the Valley each day by locomotive emissions.

Dave Crow Retires This Month

After 14 years of leading the nation's largest air district, APCO and Executive Director Dave Crow retires at the end of February. A farewell party is planned in his honor Feb. 24 in Fresno. Since helping to form the District and assuming leadership, Dave has overseen the passage of more than 500 rules or rule amendments that have cut stationary source emissions by half and have led the nation in pioneering control standards on previously unregulated emission sources.

The Governing Board congratulated Dave on his retirement, presented him with a plaque commemorating his years with the District and formally thanked him for his considerable efforts on the District's behalf.

"I'm very proud of this Board and all the Boards over the years," Dave said. "You've never failed to step up and show leadership. And you've always afforded us an opportunity to have our say. From my

perspective, the boards all throughout the years have been exemplary in local government and policy making.”

He also commended District staff, noting that, “none of this would have been possible without them,” and thanked them for their dedication, perseverance and hard work.

In typical understated fashion, Dave credited others for his achievements. “The most rewarding thing about the past 14 years has been the positive way in which Valley residents, business and industry have interacted with the District’s governing board in addressing air-quality issues,” he said. “The public has supported not only the District’s role in improving air quality, but I think we’ve been a catalyst for a good discussion of quality-of-life issues such as land use and transportation. All of that is a tribute to the Governing Board’s common-sense, open, democratic approach to listening to all interests in the Valley.

“When it’s all said and done, we get it done,” he added. “I’m going to miss this – almost 100 percent of it – and I take great pride in the aggregate efforts of this Valley. Today the record shows, we’ve done a pretty good job of addressing complicated issues and we’re seeing the benefits of that.”

Dave’s immediate plans include spending time with his family including his wife Vicki, Fresno County’s Controller, and two sons, Ryan and Matthew.

Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

Public Information managed 61 news media inquiries and responded to 108 public calls in January. Staff also took part in outreach activities at the California Air Expo in Bakersfield and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Research Forum in Parlier. A four-color brochure was designed and developed for Personnel and a new dust control poster was completed for Compliance.

In January, District residents were asked to *voluntarily* refrain from burning their wood-burning fireplaces or wood stoves on nine days in Kern County and eight days in Fresno County. Stanislaus County declared three voluntary no-burn days last month while Tulare County had two days and San Joaquin, Madera and Merced counties logged just one each. No *mandatory* wood-burning curtailments were called in the District in January.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received 21 Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications in January for a total of 41 engines. The District has received 163 applications to date for a total of 601 engines.
- \$8,400 in heavy-duty component REMOVE II grant funds was placed under contract in January.
- \$1,234,935 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Program component claims in January.

Operation Overview

- 2,906 inspections were conducted by **Compliance** in January. 59 NOVs were issued and 198 mutually settled cases were recorded.
- 321 **Permit** applications were received and 644 permits were issued in January. 83 risk management reviews were completed.
- **Planning** received 190 environmental documents, held six workshops and had six rules adopted in January. 60 smoking vehicles were reported.

Other District News

The District has purchased its first Toyota Prius to add to the fleet. The white 2006 hybrid will be part of the Southern office vehicle pool. This brings the District's hybrids to 21 out of a total of 95 fleet vehicles.

Upcoming Meetings

Citizens’ Advisory Committee –10 a.m. March 7, 2006

Governing Board – 9 a.m. March 16, 2006