

District Activities for December 2007

December 20 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board **adopted amendments** to Rule 2020 (Exemptions); Rule 4621 (Gasoline Transfer into Stationary Storage Containers, Bulk Plants, and Delivery Vessels); Rule 4622 (Gasoline Transfer into Motor Vehicle Fuel Tanks); and Rule 4624 (Organic Liquid Transfer). The rules require gasoline stations and organic liquid-transfer operations to control emissions from fuel and liquid-transfer operations. When fully implemented, the rule will remove more than 500 tons per year of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from the Valley's air. VOCs are air pollutants that form smog (ground-level ozone). Smog can exasperate respiratory problems and damage crops.
- San Joaquin County Supervisor Leroy Ornellas was **elected Chair** of the Governing Board and Ceres Councilmember Chris Vierra was elected Vice Chair for 2008. The Board thanked Kern County Sup. Jon McQuiston, whose term ends at the end of 2007, for his service this past year.
- In his comments, **outgoing Chair** Tulare County Supervisor Steve Worthley said he enjoyed the sometimes “challenging and stimulating” year and summarized some of the Board and District’s 2007 accomplishments. He highlighted the adoption of “a far-reaching ozone reduction plan” and said that measures will be developed to accelerate attainment before 2024. He lauded the District for reaching PM10 attainment five years ahead of schedule and for completing 462 grant agreements totaling \$62 million this year, almost double 2006. He listed new rules passed including controls on biosolids, ag burning and small gas turbines and said that the 2007 ozone season was the cleanest on record, a dramatic reduction in exceedances. “However, we cannot and will not rest on our laurels,” he said, noting that the District must continue to work for its fair share of state and federal dollars.
- The Governing Board approved a \$10,210,200 **Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA)** with Tejon Mountain Village LLC to mitigate air-quality impacts of the proposed Mountain Village development. The Board also approved a \$2,497,290 VERA with the John M. Antongiovanni Trust to mitigate air-quality impacts of the proposed Silver Creek Plaza development. Both projects are in Kern County. These agreements benefit air quality by authorizing the District to direct air-quality projects to alleviate pollution impacts of the projects. To date, the District has reduced 1,000 tons of emissions through Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreements.
- The Governing Board thanked Dennis Tristao, 2007 chair, and the **Citizens’ Advisory Committee** for its work reaching out to the community served by the District.
- The Governing Board heard an informational report on the lack of immediate viable alternatives to **open burning** for orchard removal (Rule 4103, Open Burning).
- The Governing Board **received and filed** amendments to a series of permit fees and permit fee schedules affecting several rules: Rule 3010 (permit fee), Rule 3020 (permit fee schedules), Rule 3030 (Hearing Board fees), Rule 3040 (open burning fees), Rule 3050 (asbestos removal fees), Rule 3060 (emission reduction credit banking fee), Rule 3070 (other charges), Rule 3110 (air toxics fees), Rule 3120 (Reg. VIII alternative compliance plan review fee), Rule 3135 (dust control plan fee), Rule 3140 (fees for certification of air permitting professionals), Rule 3150 (fees for portable equipment registration), Rule 3155 (permit-exempt equipment registration fees), Rule 3160 (prescribed burning fees), Rule 3180 (administrative fees for Indirect Source Review), and Rule 3190 (Conservation Management Practices plan fee). The Board also repealed Rule 3080 (Atmospheric Acidity Protection Act program fee) and Rule 3090 (California Clean Air Act fees). The Board set Jan. 17, 2008 for the public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Governing Board **received and filed** amendments to Rule 7011 (Hexavalent Chromium – Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations) and set Jan. 17, 2008 for the public hearing to consider adoption.

- The Governing Board approved recommendations made by its Ad Hoc Subcommittee on administrative issues related to **SB 719**, which increases the Governing Board to 15 members.
- John Beyer, an air quality conservationist who is retiring from the USDA National Resource Conservation Service, was recognized. The District was able to make **major reductions** in emissions through this agency partnership, through his assistance in developing the District's Conservation Management Practices, fugitive dust mitigation strategies, and many other key efforts.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

The response to the District's colorful 2008 Clean Air Kids calendars has been gratifying. The bilingual calendars are being distributed to Valley schools, libraries, businesses, health care organizations and individuals. In October, Outreach and Communications responded to 68 media calls and 107 public calls. Staff generated news releases on the beginning of the Check Before You Burn season, and issued health cautionary statements warning against blowing dust and smoke from fires burning in the state.

In November, Outreach and Communications answered 50 calls from media and 112 calls from the public. News releases reminded residents to check air quality before burning fires during the Thanksgiving holiday, announced the first wood-burning prohibition for 2007-08 and the District's participation in a lawsuit against the EPA. During the two months, staff participated in seven presentations and two outreach events at schools, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for October and November

October:

Because there was no Board meeting in November, Department activities are shown for two months.

- The District has received 594 applications for the Ag Internal Combustion Engine program to date for a total of 1,367 engines. The Ag ICE program is now closed.
- \$1,564,492.92 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in October.
- \$4,390,793.09 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in October.
 - Ag Engines – 19 \$ 836,019.00
 - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$2,147,750.28
 - On-Road – 6 \$1,225,972.30
 - School Bus Retrofit – 1 \$ 181,051.51
- \$149,867.39 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in October.

November:

- The District received a total of 53 applications for incentive programs in November.
- \$3,774,568.04 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$1,297,937.85 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in November.
 - Ag Engines – 14 \$ 329,200.85
 - Off-Road Engines – 4 \$ 600,897.00
 - On-Road – 4 \$ 267,840.00
 - School Bus Retrofit – 1 \$ 100,000.00
- \$102,875.00 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims.

October-November Operation Overview

- **The District** received 177 environmental documents for review in October and 156 in November.
- **Planning** held nine rule and plan public workshops in October and six in November.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,240 inspections and issued 305 NOVs in October. 317 cases were settled. The department conducted 2,108 inspections and issued 293 NOVs in November. 290 cases were settled that month.
- **Permits** received 205 applications and issued 685 permits in October. In November, 195 applications were received and 346 were issued.

- **ERIP** received 33 smoking vehicle reports in October and 42 in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board

9 a.m. Thurs., January 17

Citizens' Advisory Committee

10 a.m. Tues., January 8

Meetings are held in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Fresno. The Northern Region Office, 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, and the Southern Region Office, 2700 M St., Bakersfield, participate via video teleconference. Governing Board meetings also are webcast at www.valleyair.org.