

Highlights

District Activities for March 2007



March 15 Actions by the Governing Board

- Three new representatives from District cities were introduced and welcomed to their first Governing Board meeting: **Arvin Councilmember Raji Brar, Ceres Councilmember Chris Vierra and Fresno Councilmember Henry T. Perea.**
- The Governing Board adopted **Rule 4565 (Biosolids, Animal Manure and Poultry Litter Operations).** The new rule requires biosolids, animal manure and poultry litter management operations to implement clean management practices and/or install emission control systems. When fully implemented, the rule will remove 1,400 tons per year of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from the Valley's air. VOCs are a precursor to smog (ground-level ozone), which can exacerbate respiratory problems and damage crops.
- The Governing Board received and filed the proposed **2007 Ozone Plan** and set April 30 for a public hearing to consider adoption. The comprehensive plan is the first in the nation to address the federal 8-hour ozone air-quality standard. It uses a combination of regulations and incentive funds to reduce emissions and bring the valley into attainment with the tough federal standard as expeditiously as possible. The final plan is due to the EPA by June 15.
- The Governing Board received and filed the 2006 Annual Report on the District's **Air Toxics Program.** The report provides information on emissions of toxic air contaminants in the San Joaquin Valley, including efforts made to assess and reduce the health risk caused by toxic air contaminants to residents of the Valley.
- The Governing Board authorized an agreement between the District and the Enterprise for Education Program to continue funding of the **Clean Air Challenge** middle and high school curriculum program for \$30,000. The program is in its third year in the District and helps science teachers meet state standards while enabling students to learn about ground level ozone and particulate matter pollution. With the assistance of other sponsors, Enterprise for Education plans to reach at least 100 new teachers and over 12,000 students in the Valley.
- An agreement between the District and the Neuton Lawn Mower Company was signed for the 2007 **Clean Green Yard Machines** lawn mower trade-in program. From April 21 through May 31, residents will be able to purchase a Neuton cordless electric mower for \$150, a 63 percent discount off the regular price. To participate this year, residents will apply for a voucher from the District. When they take their old, gas mower, drained of all fluids, to a participating recycler for retirement, they receive an authorization code and can order their new mower. Interested residents can check the District's website for details at the beginning of April.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- Interest has been high in the District's new **Burn Cleaner** program. As many as 500 people are expected to receive discounts to replace older wood-burning heaters by the time the program ends March 17. The District has partnered with Operation Clean Air and Valley hearth retailers and recyclers to offer discounts of from \$250 to \$800 off the price of cleaner-burning devices such as gas inserts and stoves. Open-hearth fireplaces and older wood-burning devices manufactured before 1990 can produce more than 50 grams of particulates per hour. The EPA-certified wood-

burning devices sold today emit about 6 grams of particulates per hour. Pellet stoves provide less than 1 gram per hour of particulate emissions.

- The fourth season of the District's annual **Check Before You Burn** program to reduce wintertime particulate pollution ended Feb. 28 with fewer curtailment days in some counties. Kern County had eight days when lighting wood-burning fireplaces or stoves was prohibited compared to 16 in 2005-06. Kings County had two prohibited days, compared with 13 in 2005-06, and Tulare County recorded three days of prohibitions, down from nine last year. Fresno County had 12 curtailment days this year, compared to 11 in 2005-06 while Stanislaus County had nine this year compared to three last year. Madera (2), Merced (2) and San Joaquin (1) counties each logged the same number of curtailments as last season. A full report will be given to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- In February, Public Information staff responded to 255 public calls, primarily regarding the District's new Burn Cleaner woodstove change-out program, and 55 media calls. One news release was issued summarizing the results of the Check Before You Burn season. Staff participated in nine outreach presentations to schools and organizations around the District.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for February

- The District received a total of 61 applications for the incentive programs in February.
- The District received 20 agricultural engine electrification (AG ICE) applications in February for a total of 69 engines. The District has received 361 AG ICE applications to date for a total of 998 engines.
- \$4,962,502 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in February.
- \$2,770,537.76 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in February.
 - Ag Engines – 12 \$ 827,705.00
 - Off-Road Engines – 3 \$ 66,127.00
 - On Road - 4 \$ 954,037.00
 - School Bus Replacement – 3 \$ 922,668.76
- \$74,100 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in February.

February Operation Overview

- **The District** received 195 environmental documents for review in February.
- **Planning** held six public rule and plan workshops.
- **Compliance** conducted 807 inspections and issued 270 NOVs. 267 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 243 applications and issued 329 permits in February.
- **ERIP** received 376 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Mon., April 30*

Citizens' Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., April 3

* The April meeting was moved from April 19 to April 30.

Meetings are held in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Fresno. The Northern Region Office in Modesto and the Southern Region Office in Bakersfield participate via video teleconference. Governing Board Meetings also are webcast.