

Highlights

District Activities for October 2007



October 25 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board approved a **Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement** (VERA) with Canyons LLC. The District will receive \$5,357,000 to mitigate the air quality impacts of the proposed "The Canyons," a mixed-use residential development in Bakersfield. Since 2005, the District has entered into VERAs with developers to achieve emission reductions in excess of the requirements of District Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review). In 2006, similar agreements resulted in total emission reductions of 824 tons of NOx, 33.7 tons of PM10 and 95 tons of VOCs. A prerequisite of a VERA is that the developer must include all feasible emission reduction measures into the project.
- The Governing Board received and filed **proposed 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). December 20 was set for a public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Governing Board discussed enhancing the District's annual **Spare the Air** program in 2008 as an element of the Eight-Hour Ozone Fast Track Plan. Research has prompted the District to look at new strategies to motivate the public, businesses and municipalities to be active partners in reducing summertime ozone pollution.

The educational component of Spare the Air would shift to changing group norms and practices while still maintaining the program's voluntary nature. Research has shown that 97 percent of District residents believe that reducing air pollution is everyone's responsibility. Sixty-four percent say they are willing to do something to reduce air pollution. With these results in mind, the new strategy shifts the Spare the Air campaign from episodic strategies to incremental, over-all behavior changes in the public. It asks residents and businesses to help the District improve air quality by reducing driving, using mass transit, alternative transportation and carpooling. An extensive outreach campaign would promote no-drive days, free transit, giveaways and incentives.

- The Governing Board heard a report by internist Don Gaede, MD, on the **health effects of particulate matter**. Dr. Gaede is a member of the Fresno-Madera Medical Society and spoke as part of an effort by the District to build understanding among physicians of the adverse affects of air pollution on their patients' health. A recent study conducted in Scotland showed that men with coronary disease are significantly affected by diesel exhaust exposure. Because it reduces the ability to receive oxygen and dissolve clots, diesel exhaust exposure could be associated with cardiovascular deaths in those with heart disease. Researchers said these findings argue for the use of particle traps to limit diesel pollution and for avoiding exercise near heavy traffic. Diesel truck engines manufactured in 2010 will have particle filters and traps. Older trucks are not retrofittable and must be replaced.
- An **Ad Hoc Committee** was appointed to craft recommendations for addressing the procedural, administrative and facilities issues associated with implementing SB 719, new legislation that will increase the number of Governing Board members and impact Board composition. Board members Worthley, Ornellas, Nelson, Vierra and Barba were appointed to the committee.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

Outreach and Communications, formerly known as Public Information, logged 231 public calls in September. The end of the Spare the Air season, as well as northern California fires that sent smoke into the District, generated 97 media calls and 10 news releases for the month. Staff gave seven air quality presentations to community organizations around the Valley and participated in one outreach event in September.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for September

- The District received 51 incentive program applications in September.
- Five agricultural engine electrification (AG ICE) applications were received for a total of 27 engines. To date, the District has received 594 AG ICE applications for a total of 1,367 engines.
- \$2,549,010.00 in Heavy-Duty Engine program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in September.
- \$3,648,478 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.
 - Ag Engines - 9 \$ 383,071
 - Off-Road Engines – 5 \$2,132,089
 - On-Road – 1 \$ 867,626
 - School Bus Replacement – 1 \$ 265,691
- \$39,770 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.

September Operation Overview

- **The District** received 193 environmental documents for review in September.
- **Planning** held five rule and plan public workshops. Fourteen rules were amended in September.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,724 inspections and issued 298 NOVs. 220 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 616 applications and issued 433 permits in September.
- **ERIP** received 45 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

No November meetings are scheduled for the Governing Board or CAC.

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., December 20

Citizens' Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., December 4

Meetings are held in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Fresno. The Northern Region Office at 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.