

Highlights

District Activities for January 2007



January 18 Actions by the Governing Board

- New Governing Board Chair, Tulare Supervisor Steven Worthley, presented a **State of the District** address in which he outlined recent accomplishments, such as reaching PM 10 attainment, and future challenges, including adopting a federally approved attainment plan for the 8-hour ozone standard.

Expanding on an opinion piece he wrote that appeared in today's Fresno Bee, Sup. Worthley said that 2006 was a record year in the awarding of incentive grants with over \$31 million distributed – more than twice the amount of 2005. The funding will result in the reduction of 8,118 tons of emissions over the life of the projects. He added that the District's expanded outreach opportunities have given the public a better understanding of the "daunting task" ahead.

"When I attended the air quality symposium in Bakersfield in December, it struck me that we are judged by our worst air in the worst locations," he added. "Yet much of our District is already in attainment or soon will be. We have hot spots downwind and need to concentrate our efforts in those areas."

- The Governing Board welcomed three **new Board members** to their first meeting. They are Kern County Supervisor Jon McQuiston, Stanislaus County Supervisor William O'Brien and San Joaquin County Supervisor Leroy Ornellas, who serves as Vice Chair.
- The Governing Board amended **Rule 4702 (Internal Combustion Engines - Phase 2)**. The amendments resolve rule implementation issues affecting natural gas fired engines, establish a District control-equipment certification program, provide flexibility in demonstrating rule compliance, clarify rule applicability and reflect changes to federal standards for engine emissions. The amendments do not affect federal requirements for emission reductions or for demonstrating Reasonable Further Progress toward meeting air quality standards.
- The Governing Board approved the **2007-08 Legislative Platform**. Developed with input from the Board Ad Hoc Legislative Sub-Committee, the report will be distributed to Valley legislators. It outlines District policy positions, provides guidance and reflects the Air District's priorities for the new legislative sessions. The priorities aim to reduce mobile source emissions and garner additional incentive program funds to reach attainment as soon as possible. Included are:
 - Prop. 1B Emission Reduction Funds
 - Air Quality Enterprise/Empowerment Zone Designation
 - New Incentive Funding
 - Tax Incentives for Plant/Fleet Modernization
 - Funding for School Bus Replacement
 - Port Regulation
- The Governing Board approved the reappointment of eight members to the **Regional Hearing Boards** for three-year terms: Gerry Mulligan and Robert Schumacher, Central primary members; Gerald Schneider and Roger Gohring, Northern primary members; Jay Indelicato and Mark Boese, Northern alternates; and William Bland, Jr., and Nancy Ann Dunn, Southern primary members.
- As part of the **STAR** program (Service, Teamwork, Attitude and Respect) employees Fred Bates, Controller, Fresno office, and Dottie Shoffner, Senior Office Assistant, Modesto office, were recognized for recently completing 10 years of service to the District.

- Toni Taber, the new **Clerk to the Board**, was formally introduced to the Board by the Executive Director. Sissy Smith, Board Clerk for the past 15 years, was recognized for her excellent efforts. Sissy has moved to the Planning Department.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- About 20,000 Clean Air Kids 2007 bilingual English-Spanish calendars and 5000 Hmong language calendars developed by the District were distributed in December and January to schools, businesses, organizations and individuals. The calendars are eagerly anticipated by District residents and are an excellent educational tool.
- Two residential wood-burning prohibition days were declared in Fresno County in December and one was called in Stanislaus County. No curtailment days were declared in other District counties in December although wood-burning was discouraged on several days throughout the District.
- Public Information staff responded to 51 media calls and 197 public calls in December. Four news releases were issued. Topics included the 2006 San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Symposium, availability of the 2007 Clean Air Kids calendar, the Dec. 4 Fresno and Stanislaus wood-burning curtailments and the effects of wood-burning on air quality during the holidays. Presentations in December focused on air-quality forecasting and distributing 2007 Hmong calendars during Hmong new-year celebrations.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for December

- In December the District received a total of 56 incentive program applications including 21 agricultural engine electrification (AG ICE) applications for a total of 38 engines. 320 AG ICE applications have been received to date for a total of 915 engines.
- \$964,700 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$2,268,641.65 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.
 - Ag Engines – 12 \$878,935
 - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$866,190
 - School Bus Subsidy – 1 \$523,516.65
- \$41,834 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims.

December Operation Overview

- **The District** received 173 environmental documents for review in December.
- **Planning** held 7 public rule and plan workshops and adopted Rule 4401 (Steam Enhanced Crude Oil Production Wells).
- **Compliance** conducted 335 inspections and issued 224 NOVs. 246 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 2,591 applications, primarily in response to the Dec. 15 CAF application deadline, and issued 197 permits in December.
- **ERIP** received 46 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., Feb. 15

Citizens' Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., Feb. 6

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