

# Highlights

## District Activities for March 2008

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### March 20 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board approved a \$55,000 agreement between the District and Neuton Lawnmower Co. to fund this year's Clean Green Yard Machines lawnmower trade-in program. The program, which kicks off on Earth Day, April 22, is highly popular and reduces emissions through retiring old, gas-burning lawnmowers for cleaner, electric mowers provided by Vermont-based Neuton. Neuton has previously been a partner with the District in the annual program.

This year's agreement authorizes the District to pay \$135 per mower up to 1,100 machines and a total of \$148,500.

- The Board received and filed the proposed PM 2.5 Plan. The public hearing to consider adoption of the plan is scheduled for April 30.
- The Board approved the creation of a Community Clean Air Fund for the San Joaquin Valley and authorized Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, to contract with the Fresno Regional Foundation as a partner to accept money donated to the Fund on behalf of the District. The board also authorized Sadredin to solicit additional 501(c)(3) organizations to partner with the District, subject to Board approval.
- The Board approved and authorized the application to the Air Resources Board for Prop. IB funds.
- In other business, the Board heard a presentation on staff's technical analysis of the impact of last year's Senate Bill 719 on the process of selecting new Board members representing cities. The Governing Board reiterated its long-held position that the District should take a "hands-off" approach to appointments of city representatives to the Board, and directed staff to forward its analysis and recommended options for rotation to the League of California cities, in response to the League's request.

### Public Information, Outreach and Education

- Registration forms for the **Healthy Air Living Summits** continue to be taken for next week's summits in Bakersfield, Fresno and Modesto. So far, more than 110 registrations have been received for Bakersfield; more than 80 have arrived for Fresno; and more than 70 are in place for Modesto.
- The District ended its fifth **Check Before You Burn** residential wood-burning program Feb. 29 with a dramatic reduction in curtailments in some counties. In Fresno, there were six curtailments this year, half of last year's number. Merced and San Joaquin counties had no curtailments, compared to two and one last year, respectively. Stanislaus County had one curtailment, just a fraction of the nine called last year. In Tulare County, four curtailments were called, compared to three last year. Madera County had three curtailments (two last year); Kings County had four curtailments (two last year); and Kern County had 12 curtailments, compared to eight last year.

The number of NOVs issued for Check Before You Burn violations was also down. In Fresno, 40 NOVs were issued this year (101 last year); in Kern, 13 were issued (23 last year); in Stanislaus County, 16 were issued this year (60 last year). In Madera County, 17 were issued this year, compared to four last year. And there were no NOVs issued in Merced and San Joaquin counties this year, as there were no curtailments called.

- The District continues to conduct the **Burn Cleaner** fireplace and woodstove changeout program, which began Feb. 4. The program gives residents \$350 toward the cost of replacing their fireplace or wood burning stove or insert with a gas device. About 300 projects will be funded.

- In February, Outreach and Communications responded to 38 media calls and 242 public calls and gave six presentations. Five news releases were issued on the following topics: the Burn Cleaner program; the end of Check Before You Burn; the favorable court ruling on the District's Indirect Source Review rule; and a wind-blown dust advisory.

### Grant and Incentive Program Activities for February

- The District received a total of 64 applications for the incentive programs in February.
- \$2,136,344.00 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in February.
- \$7,998,548.71 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in February.
  - Ag Engines - 34 \$2,154,200.60
  - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$3,551,349.00
  - On-Road – 3 \$ 533,314.80
  - School Bus Replacement – 1 \$1,529,684.31
  - School Bus Retrofit – 1 \$ 230,000.00
- \$127,135.30 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in February.

### Operation Overview for February

- **The District** received 21 environmental documents for review.
- **Planning** had 0 rules adopted or amended in February and held 14 rule and plan public workshops.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,639 inspections and issued 149 NOVs. 160 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 234 applications and issued 735 permits in February.
- **ERIP** received 27 smoking vehicle reports in February.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Governing Board

9 a.m. Thurs., April 30, 2008

#### Citizens' Advisory Committee

10 a.m. Tues., April 1, 2008

Please see [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) for meeting information.