

District Highlights

April 16, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board recognized teachers and students from 27 classrooms in all eight Valley air basin counties who were winners in the **Kids for Clean Air Contest**. The District sponsored the contest as part of this year's Healthy Air Living winter program. A total of 1,776 students in fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms gathered 7,455 clean-air pledges from family and friends that listed what they would do to help reduce emissions. Each winning teacher received a \$250 resource grant and each student was awarded an iPod Shuffle. For more information, see the April issue of "Valley Air News."
- The Governing Board received and filed the District staff's end of the year report on the **2008-09 wood-burning season** detailing the following:
 1. "Kids for Clean Air" public outreach partnership contest with fourth- and fifth-grade Valley classrooms.
 2. Revised "Check Before You Burn" outreach messages as part of the Healthy Air Living Initiative and as part of a program promoting changes to District Rule 4901; air-quality and health impacts from wood burning, and identification and promotion of cleaner wood-burning options such as the use of EPA-certified wood-burning devices, pellet stoves, processed logs and seasoned firewood.
 3. Distribution of community incentive grants which assisted Valley residents in upgrading wood-burning devices to cleaner-burning gas or wood devices as part of the Burn Cleaner Program.
 4. Public health benefits from the implementation of Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters).
 5. Season-end statistics, including forecasting accuracy and compliance measures.

In July 2003, the District's Governing Board led the nation by becoming the first governing body to enact sweeping and comprehensive regulations on the use and installation of wood-burning devices in residential settings through the passage of Rule 4901. A copy of the complete report is available by contacting public.information@valleyair.org.

- The Governing Board approved the Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) Demonstration for the **Ozone State Implementation Plans** (SIP) report. The report satisfies EPA requirements for the 2004 1-hour Ozone Plan and the 2007 8-hour Ozone Plan.

This comprehensive report evaluated 55 of the District's ozone precursor (NO_x and VOC) rules against multiple federal and state rules and regulations and technology guidelines, as well as against rules from four of California's most progressive air districts (South Coast, Bay Area, Sacramento and Ventura). District staff's analysis concluded that all rules have been found to meet or exceed RACT or are on a schedule to fulfill RACT requirements.

- The Governing Board set May 21, 2009 for a public hearing to set aside **Rule 4570 (Confined Animal Facilities)**. The Governing Board also set June 18, 2009 for a public hearing to consider the District's assessment of the public health impacts of Rule 4570 and to consider either readopting Rule 4570 without changes or to direct staff to proceed with development of amendments to that rule.

This action is in response to a court order stemming from a legal action taken by the Association of Irrigated Residents (AIR). In that action, trial and appellate courts rejected AIR's main arguments relating to the rule adequacy and the projected reductions in emissions. However, the appellate court reversed a lower court decision and ruled that the District's staff report did not sufficiently address the public health impact of the rule. At the request of AIR, the court has ordered the District to set the rule aside pending its

completion of the health assessment analysis. The proposed Board action complies with the court's direction.

- The Board adopted positions on three **legislative proposals**:
 - In support of SB 382 (Florez), requiring the District to prohibit **agricultural burning** on days when residential burning is prohibited. This bill is consistent with District policy.
 - In support of AB 414 (Galgiani), requiring the Air Resources Board to establish a trade-down program to replace older, **higher-emitting trucks** with newer, lower-emission trucks. Vehicles being replaced that are newer would be made available to others as part of the program and would provide benefits in the Valley where there are a number of older, seasonal agricultural trucks in use.
 - In opposition to SB 554 (Hollingsworth). It would prohibit any air district from adopting regulations restricting or prohibiting **wood-burning devices** in new or existing structures. The Air District has had a regulation in place limiting emissions from residential wood burning since 1993.
- The Board approved an MOU with Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District to perform specialized **air quality modeling** needed to evaluate a proposal for a 660 MW natural gas-fired power plant within Yolo-Solano's boundaries.

District Activities

Outreach and Education

- **Clean Green Yard machines kicks off April 22.** The District's popular lawn mower trade-in program begins on Earth Day. Valley residents should contact the District for a voucher to receive a 63 percent discount on a clean Neuton electric lawn mower. See www.valleyair.org for more information.
- **Enter a Healthy Air Living video.** Video submissions are due May 15 for the second Healthy Air Living video contest. Thirty-second videos that promote a healthy air lifestyle can be mailed or dropped off at the nearest District office. Winners will receive an iPod Shuffle and teachers are eligible for a \$250 resource grant. Download an entry form at www.healthyairliving.org.
- **Outreach and Communications** responded to 19 media calls and 170 public calls, and participated in seven air-quality presentations or outreach events last month. Three media releases topics focused on the PM10 and Conservation Management Practices court case resolutions and on the end of the Check Before You Burn residential wood-burning curtailment season.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 395 incentive program applications in March.
- \$2,089,861 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$3,040,159.10 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in March.
 - Ag Engines – 47 \$1,265,965.39
 - Off Road – 4 \$1,278,074.00
 - On-Road 1B – 3 \$ 275,000.00
 - School Bus Replacement – 1 \$ 131,694.92
 - School Bus Retrofit – 1 \$ 89,424.79

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

- NOx 486
- PM 14
- ROG 38
- Total: 537
- \$44,076 in REMOVE II Program claims were paid out.

March Operations Overview

- **The District** received 163 environmental documents for review in March.
- **Planning** held 8 rule and plan workshops. Rule 4902 (Residential Water Heaters) was adopted.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,740 inspections in March. 202 NOVs were issued and 258 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 445 applications and issued 643 permits in March.
- **ERIP** received 54 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board

9 a.m. Thurs., May 21, 2009

Citizens' Advisory Committee

10 a.m. Tues., May 5, 2009

Please see www.valleyair.org for agendas and other details.