

District Highlights

December 17, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

- Outgoing Governing Board Chair Chris Vierra, a Ceres councilmember, presented an **end of the year report**. He said the past year has been a rewarding experience and he is proud of the District's accomplishments. "Despite economic challenges, this Board continued to shape regulations that are bringing cleaner air to this region." He cited 2008-09 as being among the cleanest years on record and noted the District's success in meeting all federal and state regulatory obligations. He said he was most excited about the expansion of public outreach efforts, and thanked Valley residents for taking the District's slogan to "Make one change for cleaner air" to heart. "It's clear now that when you talk about air quality, people listen," he said. "Particularly gratifying has been the Board's creativity and ingenuity in finding effective clean-air solutions that are now models for other agencies in the state and nation.
- In accordance with the adopted rotation schedule, Kings County Supervisor Tony Barba was elected **Board Chair for 2010** and Tulare County Supervisor Steve Worthley was selected as **Vice Chair**. They will take office in January.
- The Board adopted new **Rule 9410 (Employer Based Trip Reduction)**. The rule is a commitment in federal attainment plans and is designed to reduce emissions associated with work commutes by reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles in the Valley. Under the new rule, larger employers (those with 100 or more eligible employees) would use District-supplied tools and materials to establish employee trip-reduction programs. The rule includes a menu-based approach and a phased-in compliance schedule.
- The Valley Air District's Governing Board adopted a comprehensive regional policy and guidance on addressing and reducing **greenhouse gas (GHG) emission** impacts caused by industrial, commercial and residential development in the Valley, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This set of guidance documents is designed to assist local permitting agencies and businesses in complying with this existing state law.
- The Board adopted amendments to **Rule 4308 (Boilers, Process Heaters, Steam Generators, and Water Heaters - 0.075 MMBtu/hr to less than 2.0 MMBtu/hr)**. These amendments will implement a NOx control measure in the Ozone and PM2.5 Plans. The project will require new and replaced units to meet lower NOx limits. The emission reduction estimate is 2.8 tons per day of NOx.
- The Board adopted amendments to **Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings)**. Rule amendments will implement a control measure in the Ozone Plan and reduce the VOC content limits of several coating categories to make them consistent with the Suggested Control Measure that was adopted by ARB. Emission reduction estimate is 2.1 tons per day of VOC.
- The Board accepted \$294,932 in **Carl Moyer Program funds** from the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and \$647,613 from the Mojave Desert AQMD. The Valley Air District will use these funds in conjunction with other Carl Moyer Program monies for emission-reduction projects within the San Joaquin Valley air basin. The two air districts were not able to use the funds prior to the deadline so asked the Valley Air District to accept them as an alternative to returning them to the state.

October - November District Activities

Outreach and Education

- **2010 Kids' Calendars are here!** The District's popular four-color, bilingual wall calendars are ready for distribution. This year's entries include art from students in every Valley county. Email public.education@valleyair.org or call the nearest office to place an order. Modesto: 209-557-6400, Fresno: 559-230-6000 or Bakersfield: 661-392-5500.

- **Sign up for email notification lists.** Check out <http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm> to sign up for an email notification list that interests you. You can receive the daily air quality forecast and the wood-burning forecast or information on upcoming workshops and incentive programs.
- The District organized a media event celebrating the **replacement of four pre-1977 school buses** with new, low-emission school buses in Kings Canyon School District. The buses were replaced through the Prop 1B Lower Emission School Bus Program. The state Air Resources Board allocated \$39 million in Prop 1B funds to the Valley Air District. All pre-1977 buses in the Valley will be replaced and remaining funds will be used for retrofits and additional replacements. School districts must apply to the Air District for funding. For information, call 559-230-5800.
- **The “2009 Annual Report to the Community” is available.** The comprehensive, 48-page booklet contains air-quality trends, details on the District’s grant funding expenditures and an overview of the year in review. Copies can be picked up in District offices or ordered by emailing public.education@valleyair.org or calling the Fresno office at 559-230-6000.
- District staff answered 106 public calls and 17 media calls in November. Many calls reflected questions about Check Before You Burn, the wood-burning curtailment season that runs Nov. 1 – Feb. 28. Three news releases covered the winner of the Chevy Malibu hybrid and wood burning. Ten outreach events included health fairs and presentations to organizations, municipalities and classrooms.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 55 incentive program applications in November.
- \$7,400,423.12 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in November.
- \$1,664,364.39 paid in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.

• Ag Engines – 19	\$ 839,234.22
• Infrastructure – 1	\$ 32,923.50
• On-Road VIP – 5	\$ 165,000.00
• On-Road Prop 1B – 1	\$ 300,000.00
• Off Road – 3	\$ 183,873.07
• School Bus Retrofit – 2	\$ 143,333.60

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

• NOx	316
• PM	1
• ROG	<u>2</u>

Total: 319

- \$127,816.65 in REMOVE II Program claims were paid in November.

October - November Operations Overview

- **The District** received 133 environmental documents for review in October and 200 in November.
- **Planning** held 12 rule and plan workshops in October and 2 in November.
- **Compliance** completed 3,087 inspections, issued 277 NOVS and settled 256 mutual settlement cases in October. In November 1,626 inspections were completed, 180 NOVs were issued and 244 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 322 applications and issued 438 permits in October. In November, staff received 180 applications and issued 314 permits.
- **ERIP** received 336 smoking vehicle reports in October and 36 in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., Jan. 21, 2010

Citizens Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., Jan. 5, 2010

Meetings are held in the Governing Board Room in the Fresno office and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Meetings are webcast. Details: www.valleyair.org