

District Highlights

May 21, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board received and filed District staff's update on compliance by stakeholders with **Rule 4682** (Polystyrene, Polyethylene and Polypropylene products manufacturing). After conducting technical meetings with stakeholders, considering additional information and re-evaluating the cost effectiveness calculations for the rule, District staff found that the costs of implementing the rule were consistent with estimates made at the time the rule was considered for adoption, and recommended that the rule not be amended at this time.
- In response to a court order resulting from a lawsuit brought by the Association of Irrigated Residents (AIR) against the District, the Governing Board set aside **Rule 4570** (Confined Animal Facilities). The rule targeted dairies, feedlots and poultry houses and imposed work practices to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions that contribute to unhealthy levels of ozone. AIR sued the District on nine issues shortly after the rule was adopted in 2006 and the trial court held in favor of the District on all counts. The appeals court upheld the trial court's position on all counts but one, which stated that the District had not sufficiently analyzed the public health benefits of the proposed rule. An analysis of the public health impacts of the rule has been completed and the Governing Board is scheduled to consider re-adopting Rule 4570 on June 18. The proposed rule and the supporting materials, including the public health benefit analysis, are posted at www.valleyair.org.
- In the summer of 2008, California experienced a record number of **wildfires**, and the resulting emissions caused serious health impacts and unprecedented levels of PM 2.5 and ozone in the San Joaquin Valley and elsewhere. Today, the Board adopted an additional item for the 2009 Legislative Platform that recommends providing more financial and staffing resources for land managers to reduce fuel supplies; revising contradictory federal policies that restrict the use of mechanized methods and prescribed burning to reduce fuels; providing more resources to manage wildfires; and changing federal policies to better incorporate air quality concerns by shifting focus to prescribed burning and reducing the impact of wildfires.
- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4692** (Commercial Charbroiling) and Rule 4311 (Flares), and set June 18 for a public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Board voted to accept \$205,000 in **Lower Emission School Bus Program** funds from the Air Resources Board. The funds will be used to retrofit existing school buses in the Valley. The money came from an EPA grant that is part of the State Clean Diesel Grant Program, known as the 2009 State DERA grant, and must be used by Sept. 30, 2009.
- As mandated by the state, a special hearing was held to allow public review of the 2009-10 **Recommended Budget** prior to its approval.

April District Activities

Outreach and Education

- **Healthy Air Living is the focus of free public events.** Three Healthy Air Living **Business Summits** and 16 town hall-type "Chats" will give Valley residents a chance to learn about air quality and how businesses and individuals can make changes for cleaner air. The Business Summits are scheduled for 1:30 – 3:30 pm Tues., June 2, in **Bakersfield**; 1:30 – 3:30 pm Wed., June 3, in **Fresno**; and 9:30 –

11:30 am Thurs., June 4, in **Modesto**. All summits will be held at District offices. To reserve a spot, call 559-230-6032.

The Healthy Air Living **Chats** will be held in the evenings so that working people can attend and will be held in all eight counties. Light refreshments will be served and children are welcome. Events are free and open to the public. For more information, see the May Valley Air News or www.healthyliving.com.

- **Lawn mower trade-in program.** Hundreds of Valley residents have taken advantage of the huge discount offered by the District to purchase a cordless Neuton electric lawn mower at a 63% discount. The 14" mower is \$150 (reg. price: \$399) and a 50% discount for the 19" mower, with a price of \$250 (reg. price: \$499). Residents trade in their gas mower at a recycling center before they order their new mower. Vouchers can be requested through May 31. Contact public.education@valleyair.org or call a District office.
- Earth Day events around the air basin gave Outreach and Communications staff the opportunity to take part in 13 air-quality presentations or outreach events. Staff answered 15 media calls and 189 public calls last month. Four media releases featured the winners of the "Kids for Clean Air" public outreach partnership contest with fourth- and fifth-grade Valley classrooms, Clean Green Yard Machines, the Confined Animal Facility court ruling and a dust advisory.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 30 incentive program applications in April.
- \$2,203,823 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$4,180,192.47 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in April.
 - Ag Engines – 30 \$1,160,866.47
 - Locomotive - 1 \$1,914,446.00
 - On-Road – 2 \$ 704,880.00
 - On-Road 1B – 8 \$ 400,000.00

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

- NOx 767
- PM 26
- ROG 91

Total: 883

- \$43,275 in REMOVE II Program claims were paid out.

April Operations Overview

- **The District** received 218 environmental documents for review in April.
- **Planning** held 5 rule and plan workshops. No rules were adopted.
- **Compliance** completed 2,791 inspections in April. 567 NOVs were issued and 248 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 173 applications and issued 456 permits in March.
- **ERIP** received 47 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board

9 a.m. Thurs., June 18, 2009

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

Citizens' Advisory Committee

10 a.m. Tues., June 2, 2009