

District Highlights

August 20, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Valley Air District compared favorably with other large California air districts, according to a study by the Sierra Nevada Air Quality Group that assessed the **District's budget and spending record** over a five-year period. In a comparison with Bay Area, South Coast, Ventura and Sacramento air districts, the Valley Air District rated above average in cost efficiency of stationary source reductions, compliance inspection totals and public outreach. The findings showed the District has low overhead, efficient air quality control programs and a very cost-effective grant management program. It also received more per capita incentive funding and spent less than other districts while accomplishing comparative results. One recommendation from the study was to increase the availability of online permit applications and that effort is underway. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation funded the study.
- The Board received an interim report on the spring/summer **2009 Healthy Air Living outreach**. The District has negotiated with the Central Valley Chevrolet Dealers to give away a Malibu Hybrid. To enter, residents can visit one of 18 participating dealers or fill out a personal air-quality pledge card. Four Healthy Air Living Business Summits were held in Bakersfield, Visalia, Fresno and Stockton. Fifteen Healthy Air Living Chats increased the District's visibility in somewhat remote areas of the air basin and provided an opportunity for public outreach and input. Public response to the events was consistently favorable. Electric lawn mowers, bicycles and iPod Shuffles were given away at these events.

The District is actively recruiting Valley businesses to become Healthy Air Living Business Partners. Several hundred invitation packets were mailed in July and staff is receiving completed applications and resolutions from interested businesses. Business partner logos are being posted on the Healthy Air Living website. The District will launch a Spanish-language website in September and has a Spanish-only pledge card. Bilingual District staff also attended several Latino outreach events to help spread the word about the Valley's air-quality issues.

- To insure maximal protection of student health and to build on the existing **Air Quality Flag Program**, the District is developing new, voluntary activity guidelines that will offer Valley school districts added tools and flexibility in protecting student health. A key element in this program will be easy and quick access to real-time air-quality data from monitors near schools. This will provide school personnel with the short-term ability to avoid periods of high ozone or PM 2.5, or to make longer-term changes in event scheduling. The ability to access real-time air quality data will also be helpful in verifying the accuracy of the District's air quality forecast in the face of unanticipated weather patterns or exceptional events such as wildfires.

The new, more protective federal PM 2.5 standard has underscored the need for schools to effectively protect student health. Most health experts agree that repeated lung inflammation triggered by exposure to elevated fine particulates or ozone can exacerbate respiratory conditions and trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly true for sensitive individuals such as children and adolescents whose lung development is still underway and breathing rates are higher.

- The Board had previously continued the June 21, 2009, hearing to consider proposed amendments to **Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling)** to allow staff time to further study the impact on industry, meet with stakeholders and address technical issues and potential grant assistance. Based on information received by staff, the staff proposed significant revisions to the proposed amendments. To allow the public time to review these revisions, the Board continued the hearing until Sept. 17.

- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4602** (Motor Vehicle Assembly Coatings); **Rule 4603** (Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products); **Rule 4653** (Adhesives) and **Rule 4684** (Polyester Resin Operations) and proposed new **Rule 4695** (Brandy Aging and Wine Aging) and set September 17 for a public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Governing Board approved a \$19,100 agreement with the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization to develop a program, in partnership with the District, to help small, local jurisdictions **apply for block grants** that are available through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The California Energy Commission is disbursing grant funds for cost effective energy efficiency projects and programs.
- The Board accepted \$1,346,000 from the State's Carl Moyer Program for the **Voucher Incentive Program** (VIP), a pilot program that offers owners of heavy-duty fleets of three or fewer trucks up to \$35,000 towards the purchase of a newer truck. The voucher concept is a streamlined approach that the California Air Resources Board hopes to introduce in other regions. The Valley Air District is the first, and currently only, air district in the State operating the VIP.
- The Board accepted a \$300,000 grant from the US EPA to fund a **hybrid hydraulic demonstration project**. The District plans to purchase two hybrid hydraulic delivery vehicles that will be operated in the San Joaquin Valley as a technology demonstration project. This technology improves fuel efficiency and decreases emissions by replacing a conventional transmission with a hydraulic drive train.

June and July District Activities

The Governing Board did not meet in July so activities for two months are listed in this issue.

Outreach and Education

- There's still time to get an electric lawn mower. **Clean Green Yard Machine** vouchers are still available. Trade in your gas-powered mower for a giant discount on a clean, cordless, electric mower. More than 1,300 vouchers have been distributed. Information is available on the District website: www.valleyair.org.
- District staff participated in 31 outreach events in June and July in all three regions, including Healthy Air Living Chats, health fairs and presentations. Staff also responded to 75 media calls and 285 public calls, and issued 15 news releases.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 415 incentive program applications in June and 31 in July.
- Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant fund contracts totaled \$4,089,520 in June and \$1,179,177 in July.
 - June: \$1,060,081.62 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims was paid.
 - Ag Engines – 13 \$518,467.32
 - Electric Forklift – 1 \$ 82,822.30
 - Off-Road – 1 \$ 58,792.00
 - On-Road 1B – 3 \$400,000.00
 - July: \$2,505,751.88 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims was paid.
 - Ag Engines – 24 \$855,694.92
 - Off-Road – 2 \$765,508.08
 - On-Road 1B – 4 \$550,000.00
 - School Bus Retrofit – 2 \$334,548.88

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
• NOx	711	404
• PM	20	12
• ROG	<u>152</u>	<u>35</u>
Total:	884	451

- REMOVE II claims: \$207,054.40 was paid in June and \$13,560 was paid in July.
- Burn Cleaner claims: \$3,750 was paid in June.

June-July Operations Overview

- **The District** received 171 environmental documents for review in June and 147 in July.
- **Planning** held 3 rule and plan workshops in June and 5 in July. Two rules were adopted or amended in June.
- **Compliance** completed 2,553 inspections in June and 3,535 in July. 162 NOVs were issued in June and 175 were issued in July. Mutually settled cases totaled 240 in June and 309 in July.
- **Permits** received 502 applications and issued 495 permits in June. In July, 335 applications were received and 322 were issued.
- **ERIP** received 41 smoking vehicle reports in June and 32 in July.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., Sept. 17

Citizens Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., Sept. 1

The October and November board meetings have been consolidated and one meeting now will take place November 5. No Board meeting will be held in October. Meetings are held in the Governing Board Room in the Fresno office and by teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Please see www.valleyair.org for agendas and other details.