

District Highlights

June 18, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted amendments to **Rule 4311 (Flares)**, which controls emissions from 137 industrial flares that are used at 87 facilities involved with oil and gas production, sewage treatment, waste incinerators, petroleum refining, and general Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emission control. The rule would require flare operators to submit flare minimization plans and perform monitoring and recordkeeping. The rule would also reduce Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) emissions from one facility by 66% from the baseline emissions.
- The Board continued until the Aug. 20 meeting proposed amendments to **Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling)** to further study the impact on industry, meet with stakeholders and address technical issues and potential grant assistance.
- Reflecting the Governing Board's desire for Valley-based health research, in 2007 the District funded the University of California, San Francisco – Fresno, to conduct a two-year clinical **study of the effects of wintertime PM 2.5 and summertime ozone** on the respiratory health of asthmatic and healthy individuals living in Fresno. The preliminary results were presented at the Governing Board meeting by lead investigator Tim Tyner. Key findings included the following: (1) During the winter study period, chemicals created by the combustion of fuel, wood burning, and meat cooking were found in the urine of study subjects; (2) these chemicals, known as quinones, corresponded with ambient levels of PM 2.5; (3) multi-day periods of elevated PM 2.5 were found to correspond with proportional decreases in lung function and increased respiratory symptoms (wheezing) in asthmatic subjects; and (4) elevated ambient ozone levels did not result in increased respiratory symptoms or changes in lung function. A follow-up study is underway.
- The Governing Board re-adopted **Rule 4570 (Confined Animal Facilities)**. The rule covers dairies, feedlots and poultry houses, and imposes work practices to reduce volatile organic compound emissions that contribute to unhealthy levels of ozone. In response to a court order resulting from a lawsuit brought by the Association of Irrigated Residents (AIR) against the District, the Governing Board had set aside Rule 4570 on May 18. 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 was completed and presented to the Governing Board before they considered re-adopting Rule 4570. The rule and the supporting materials, including the public health benefit analysis, are posted at www.valleyair.org.
- The Board approved a contract with Tracer Environmental Sciences and Technologies to provide a new **air monitoring station in Hanford**. The new station is expected to be completed in August.

May District Activities

Outreach and Education

- **Come Chat about air quality!** Five air-quality public meetings have been held around the Valley so far and 10 more are scheduled in the eight counties of the District through early August. At the healthy Air Living Chats, residents learn about the region's air-quality issues and have a chance to win prizes ranging from an electric lawn mower or bicycle to a walk-to-work iPod package. For details, see www.healthyliving.com.
- **Business Summits draw crowds.** Several hundred stakeholders attended three Healthy Air Living Business Summits held in June in Bakersfield, Modesto and Fresno to hear how business and

industry can make changes for cleaner air. A fourth Business Summit is scheduled for July 8 in Stockton.

- **Lawn mower trade-in discount extended.** Vouchers are still available to purchase a clean, cordless, electric mower at a huge discount with the trade-in of a gas-powered mower. The Clean Green Yard Machines program is being extended so that more Valley residents may participate. More than 1,200 vouchers have been distributed. Information is available on the District website: www.valleyair.org.
- District staff participated in 27 outreach events in all three regions during May, ranging from Bike to Work Day to asthma fairs. Media calls totaled 22 and there were 253 public calls, many related to the lawn mower trade-in program.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 23 incentive program applications in May.
- \$1,868,162 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in May.
- \$1,822,474 paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.
 - Ag Engines – 26 \$1,480,392
 - Off-Road – 2 \$ 242,082
 - On-Road 1B – 2 \$ 100,000Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)
 - NOx 529
 - PM 17
 - ROG 66Total: 612

May Operations Overview

- **The District** received 145 environmental documents for review in May.
- **Planning** held 3 rule and plan workshops. No rules were adopted.
- **Compliance** completed 3,433 inspections. 177 NOVs were issued and 201 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 255 applications and issued 1,049 permits in May.
- **ERIP** received 33 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

No Governing Board or Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled in July. The next meetings are: Governing Board – 9 a.m. Thurs., Aug. 20, and CAC – 10 a.m. Tues., Aug. 4. Please see www.valleyair.org for agendas and other details.