

# District Highlights

September 16, 2010 Actions by the Governing Board

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- The Board approved amendments to **Rule 4354 (Glass Melting Furnaces)**, which added a new compliance schedule allowing short-term compliance flexibility for flat-glass melting furnaces in exchange for more stringent long-term controls. Although the new schedule is voluntary, it is expected to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by up to 32 tons per year beginning in 2014. The NOx emissions combine with other pollutants to form ozone during the hot, stagnant Valley summers and particulates during the cold Valley winters.
- The Board approved amendments to **Rule 4653 (Adhesives and Sealants)**, reducing VOC content limits for sealants and adhesives. Products that comply with these more stringent limits are already available, so staff does not expect the rule changes to significantly impact Valley businesses.
- A new **Healthy Air Living media campaign** hit the airwaves, billboards and web over the summer, featuring the voices and faces of the District's own Governing Board and personalizing the Healthy Air Living message of making one change for clean air. The advertising promoted clean-air changes we can all make at work and at home such as joining a vanpool, riding a bike to work, bringing your lunch or driving a hybrid.
- The Board authorized the Air Pollution Control Officer to accept an invitation from Mendota Advanced Bioenergy Sugar Beet Cooperative to join a fact-finding delegation traveling to Germany. Consistent with the APCO's policy prohibiting District employees from accepting any type of reimbursement or payment from project proponents, however, any trip expenses will be paid by the District. The cooperative is researching development of an **integrated biorefinery** at the site of the former Spreckels Mendota sugar factory that would produce electricity, ethanol fuels and biomethane from almond prunings and locally harvested sugar beets.
- The Board approved staff recommendations to support establishing realistic, achievable regional **greenhouse gas emission reduction targets** for Valley cars and light trucks. Based on the position that the Board approved, District staff will recommend that CARB set reduction targets of 2% for 2020 and 5% for 2035 as placeholders until regional transportation models for the Valley can be improved. Establishing ambitious but achievable targets will help assure that future infrastructure projects will comply with Sustainable Community Strategies and that emissions from Valley vehicles will actually be reduced.
- The Board heard a verbal report on the development of amendments to **Rule 4570 (Large Confined Animal Facilities)**. The update described the District's efforts to obtain additional public and agency input and the timeline for a revised proposed version of the rule for Board consideration. The Board will consider the amendments for adoption at a public hearing Oct. 21.
- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4612 (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Coating Operations)** and set Oct. 21 for a public hearing to consider their adoption. The amendments would clarify language, intent and requirements of the rule.

## August District Activities

### *Outreach and Communications*

- **Clean-energy school buses improve quality of life for Valley children.** Through a coordinated grant effort between multiple agencies and funds, thousands of Valley schoolchildren will enjoy a healthier ride to school. Fresno Unified School District rolled out 30 brand-new, CNG school buses in August with the assistance of District funding. In Bakersfield, the District worked with the US

Environmental Protection Agency to host a news conference publicizing clean, new school buses in the Southern region.

- **RAAN alerts schools to poor air quality.** A pilot program that sends air quality updates to schools is being tested as part of the nation's first real-time pollution alert network. The Real-time Air Quality Advisory Network (RAAN) uses e-mail, text messages and online updates to notify schools about air quality levels near their schools to help them decide if students should be allowed outside for athletic events, recess and other outdoor activities. Teachers, coaches, administrators and parents can sign up for the alerts in October. See the District's website for information.
- **Healthy Air Living goes to the ballpark!** Outreach and Communications focused on public Healthy Air Living outreach during August with a strong presence at minor-league baseball games throughout the air basin. The games were all attended by OC staff and fans responded enthusiastically to information about Healthy Air Living and entered drawings for bike giveaways.
- **... and Healthy Air Living Partner outreach continues.** Focused outreach to enroll new Healthy Air Living partners from Valley businesses and agencies continues and OC receives Partner applications weekly. New software created by District IT staff streamlines the enrollment process and ensures up-to-date information plus timely and efficient dissemination of materials.
- In August, staff responded to 102 public calls and 39 media calls, and issued three news releases. Staff also gave five presentations and participated in five outreach events.

### Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 125 incentive program applications in August. Of those, 46 were for the Woodstove Change-Out Program, which paid out \$16,000 in claims.
- \$10,710,677.10 in Heavy-Duty Engine program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract. \$69,650 in REMOVE II program claims were paid in August and \$4,344,469.40 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims were paid.

• Ag Engines – 26	\$ 514,671.10
• Off-Road - 31	\$1,177,796.86
• On-Road - 6	\$ 113,802.00
• On Road Prop 1B – 48	\$2,323,500.00
• On-Road VIP – 1	\$ 45,000.00
• School Bus Retrofit – 22	\$ 84,049.44

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

• NOx	1470
• PM	52
• ROG	<u>29</u>

Total: 1551

### August Operations Overview

- **The District** received 166 environmental documents for review in August.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 39 smoking vehicle reports.
- **Compliance** completed 2,570 inspections, issued 215 NOVS and finalized 247 mutual settlement cases.
- **Permits** received 222 applications in August. 977 permits were issued.

### Upcoming Meetings

**2010 Governing Board Study Session for Educational and Strategic Planning**  
**Beginning Wed. Sept. 29, 11 a.m.,**  
**Concluding, Thurs., Sept. 30, 3 p.m.**  
**Location: Bass Lake**

**Governing Board\***  
**9 a.m. Thurs., 10/21/10**

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***  
**10 a.m. Tues., 10/5/10**

**Environmental Justice Adv. Group**  
**5:30 pm Tues., 9/28/10**

*Meetings are held in the Governing Board Room in the Fresno office and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)*

*\*Meetings are webcast.*