

# District Highlights

## March 18, 2010 Actions by the Governing Board

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- The Board authorized the District to continue most provisions of its **Economic Assistance Initiative**. The initiative was first authorized in February 2009 in consideration of the economic downturn to provide economic relief to regulated businesses while maintaining environmental safeguards. The initiative was extended in September 2009 for an additional six months. With the latest action, the District will continue these measures, including offering installment payment plans for some fees; and providing additional time in incentive grant contracts for businesses in economic hardship. Making these measures permanent is not anticipated to have a significant impact on District operations or revenue.
- The Board also accepted \$3,070,700 from the **Reformulated Gasoline Settlement Fund** and approved the implementation of the **Vehicle Repair, Retirement and Replacement for Motorists Program**. This fund is the result of the settlement of 14 class-action lawsuits against Union Oil Co. and Unocal involving summertime reformulated gasoline. The vehicle retirement program will join the District's Polluting Automobile Scrap and Salvage Program (PASS) and result in more gross-polluting vehicles being taken off Valley roads.
- An agreement with Fresno advertising agency **Jeffrey Scott** was renewed, allowing JSA to continue its work on the District's comprehensive public outreach and education campaigns.
- The District's **Technology Advancement Program (TAP)** was approved. TAP will advance and accelerate the implementation of clean-air technologies in order to gain further emissions reductions and facilitate the air basin's attainment of health-based air-quality standards.
- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4103 (Open Burning)** and set April 15 for a public hearing to consider adoption. The amendments would incorporate the language of California Health & Safety Code Sections 41855.5 and 41855.6 regarding the open burning of certain agricultural materials. The determinations required by the Health & Safety Code will be presented to the Board in May, based on a report that staff will present for public review in April.
- The Board contracted with UCSF-Fresno to assist District staff in the development of a voluntary **Real-Time Air Advisory Network** for San Joaquin Valley schools and a corresponding set of outdoor activity guidelines for students. RAAN will consist of: (1) an email-based communication network that will notify schools when local PM 2.5 or ozone levels are forecast to reach unhealthy levels and (2) updated outdoor activity guidelines for students. It is expected to be operational August 1.

## February District Activities

### *Outreach and Education*

- **2010 For Reel Video Contest kicks off!** The annual Healthy Air Living video contest is under way and is expected to generate even more interest than last year's record number of entries. This year's question: "How Are You Healthy Air living?" Entries will be accepted from amateur videographers until May 28. The prizes include iPod shuffles and resource grants for teachers of winning classrooms. See [www.healthyliving.org](http://www.healthyliving.org) or "Valley Air District" on Facebook for details.
- **Earth Day approaches.** Outreach and Communications is scheduling April Earth Day events throughout the Valley. Typically, the department staffs more than a dozen events in the days surrounding Earth Day, April 22.
- **Clean Green Yard Machines continues popularity.** A traditional component of the District's outreach is the Clean, Green Yard Machines (CGYM) lawn mower trade-in program, which has become a year-round incentive program. CGYM continues to be exceptionally popular and discount vouchers to purchase an electric mower are being issued weekly to Valley residents. Call any Valley Air District office to request a

voucher: Modesto 209-557-6400, Fresno 559-230-6000 or Bakersfield 661-392-550, or e-mail: [public.education@valleyair.org](mailto:public.education@valleyair.org).

- **Healthy Air Living Partner recruitment picks up speed.** Outreach and Education is putting the finishing touches on outreach specifically aimed at Valley businesses for recruitment as Healthy Air Living Partners. Presentations are being scheduled with Valley Rotary Club chapters, and intensive outreach is being conducted to the Valley's faith-based community. The Healthy Air Living website is being revamped and updated to reflect these emerging activities.
- District staff answered 84 public calls and 16 media calls in February. Many calls reflected questions about Check Before You Burn, which ended Feb. 28. Staff gave six presentations and organized and staffed the District's booth at the annual World Ag Expo in Tulare.

### *Grant and Incentive Programs*

- The District received 188 incentive program applications in February. Of those, 147 were for the Burn Cleaner Woodstove Change-out Program.
- \$4,278,569.06 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in November.
- \$1,173,348.47 paid in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.

• Ag Engines – 36	\$ 577,766.26
• Infrastructure – 2	\$ 65,000.00
• On-Road VIP – 3	\$ 150,000.00
• On-Road Prop 1B – 9	\$ 223,345.68
• Off Road – 1	\$ 140,000.00
• School Bus Replacement – 1	\$ 143,333.60
• School Bus Retrofit -	\$ 17,236.63

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

• NOx	758
• PM	295
• ROG	<u>4</u>

Total: 1,057

- \$185,050.00 in REMOVE II Program claims were paid in February.
- \$7,750.00 in woodstove change-out program claims were paid in February.

### *February Operations Overview*

- **The District** received 102 environmental documents for review.
- **Planning** held 1 rule and plan workshop.
- **Compliance** completed 2,430 inspections, issued 184 NOVS and settled 147 mutual settlement cases.
- **Permits** received 140 applications and issued 319 permits.
- **ERIP** received 30 smoking vehicle reports.

### *Upcoming Meetings*

**Governing Board**  
**9 a.m. Thurs., April 15, 2010**

**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**10 a.m. Tues., April 6, 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](http://www.valleyair.org)