

District Highlights

District Adopts New Amendments to the Residential Wood Burning Program

The Governing Board approved amendments to the District’s residential wood burning rule, which will provide more burn days for Valley residents who have invested in clean wood burning devices. These amendments will also significantly increase the number of No Burn days for high-polluting units that are responsible for 95 percent of the pollution generated from residential wood burning. The Board also allocated \$2.1 million in financial incentives for Valley residents to upgrade to clean units. These amendments, along with the financial incentives provided, will generate 5.1 tons per day of reductions in PM2.5 emissions.

The Board action was designed to satisfy federal mandates and to improve quality of life for Valley residents. Further reductions in residential wood smoke emissions is also a high priority under the District’s Health Risk Reduction Strategy, given the significant localized health impacts associated with residential wood smoke, and the fact that attaining the 2006 federal PM2.5 standard is impossible without significant reductions in these emissions. Health benefits from reducing emissions from residential wood burning are related to the high level of population exposure to urban, residential wood-burning emissions in relation to other stationary sources.

Amendments to District Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) lowers the curtailment threshold from 30 to 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for older, higher-polluting wood burning heaters, open hearth fireplaces, and non-registered wood burning heaters. The cleaner, registered wood burning heaters will be allowed to burn when air quality is forecast to be between 20 and 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. No wood burning will be allowed when air quality is forecast to be above 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

To provide a less intrusive means to identify “clean” units that will be given additional flexibility, the proposed amendments allow Valley residents to register their devices if they wish to take advantage of the allowance for additional burning. The District will allow Valley residents to register free of charge for the 2014-15 winter season. Registration in subsequent years will be subject to a fee of \$12.50 every three years and subject to inspection by qualified professionals to ensure the device is properly maintained and operated.

Amendments to the District’s Burn Cleaner incentive program will increase the incentive amount offered by the District for the transition to clean-burning alternatives in the amounts identified in the table below.

New Heater Type	Incentive Amount
Gas insert/stove/fireplace	\$1,500
- Additional incentive for gas infrastructure	\$500
EPA-certified pellet insert/stove	\$1,500
EPA-certified wood insert/stove	\$1,500
Low-income qualified applicants	\$2,500
- Additional incentive for gas infrastructure	\$500

September Healthy Air Living Tip

While summer lingers, ozone remains an ongoing problem. Idling, use of drive through services, and single occupant vehicle trips, all contribute to rising ozone levels.

Reference: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drivehabits.shtml>

Tip: Save gas, money and reduce harmful emissions by not idling your vehicle. Turn off your engine when dropping off or picking up students, and carpool whenever possible to keep ozone levels low.

For more clean air tips, see www.healthyairliving.com.

August District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- Outreach and Communications ramped up support for the proposed wood-burning rule amendments and developed outreach materials and website content. No-idling outreach was a major focal point and wildfires continued to plague the air basin.
- OC staff responded to 22 media calls and 127 public calls and emails, attended two events and presentations, and issued five news releases in August.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 293 incentive program applications. 43 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 63 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- \$3,580,047 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 83 claims were paid.
- \$557,146 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- \$13,000 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 22 claims were processed.

August 2014	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts sent out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Claims paid	Sum of Grant Funding
Heavy Duty	63	95	\$3,119,222.98	71	\$3,580,047.03	83	\$2,946,615.63
School Bus	0	16	\$2,010,688.74	4	\$329,012.12	25	\$366,347.13
On-Road Prop 1B	0	113	\$4,746,700.00	23	\$919,800.00	0	\$0.00
Lawn and Garden	11	13	\$2,950.00	13	\$2,950.00	19	\$4,350.00
REMOVE	173	477	\$497,929.40	474	\$407,219.40	2,231	\$557,146.07
Burn Cleaner	43	44	\$24,000.00	44	\$24,000.00	22	\$13,000.00
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$560,050.30
Public Benefit	3	5	\$1,101,106.64	10	\$651,824.80	27	\$316,026.16
Totals	293	763	\$11,502,597.76	639	\$5,914,853.35	2,413	\$4,763,535.29

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)

Nox	PM	ROG	Total
540	22	41	603

Operations Overview

- **Compliance** completed 2,646 inspections. 191 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 148.
- **Permits** received 114 applications. 231 permits were issued.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 14 smoking vehicle reports.
- **The District** received 172 environmental documents.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*	Citizens Advisory Committee*	Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.
9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13	10 a.m. Tues., TENTATIVE Nov. 4	5 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 23
	10 a.m. Tues., SCHEDULED Dec. 2	

(October Governing Board and CAC meetings have been canceled)

*Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: www.valleyair.org *Webcast*