

## The District's Governing Board Authorizes the Launch of Groundbreaking Web-based Archived Air Quality System (WAAQS) Providing Neighborhood by Neighborhood Air Quality Information to all Valley Residents

Providing accurate and up to date air quality information to Valley residents is a top priority for the District. This is especially important during times when the Valley's unique geography, topography, and meteorology overwhelm all clean air measures and lead to high pollution concentrations that may be unhealthy for Valley residents.

In 2010, the District further responded to this need by creating the Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) to provide the residents of the Valley access to hour-by-hour local air quality conditions. With this new risk-management tool, RAAN made it possible for schools, parents, and others to make informed decisions about when, and for whom, outdoor activities should be limited. RAAN revolutionized the way local air quality conditions are communicated on a real-time basis. However, RAAN relies on data from air quality monitors that are typically sited at locations which measure worst case concentrations. Given the large geographical area that is covered by the District's air monitoring network, this method, although providing the worst case air quality measurements, may not accurately reflect the actual air quality conditions at the neighborhood level.

In response, the Governing Board directed the District to develop a system that would provide air quality conditions on a neighborhood by neighborhood scale as opposed to being limited to only the readings from monitors. This project was organized through the following phased approach:

- Phase I – Establish Algorithms and/or modeling techniques for Quantifying Neighborhood Level Particulate and Ozone Concentrations - **COMPLETED**
- **Phase II – Provide Historical Air Quality Trends at the Neighborhood Level – READY TO LAUNCH**
- Phase III – Provide Real-time Air Quality Data at the Neighborhood Level – **UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

Phase I of this project was completed last year and established a modeling technique for quantifying neighborhood level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. The District has already used this modeling technique to generate neighborhood level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations for each of the approximately 3,600 grid cells (4 km x 4 km) that make up the San Joaquin Valley dating back to 1990. This data is being used as the foundation for providing historical air quality information under Phase II of this project.

Under Phase II, the District committed to provide an online tool to the public that will allow residents to view historical air quality information for their neighborhood by simply entering an address of their choosing. This newly developed system has been named the Web-Based Archived Air Quality System (WAAQS). The neighborhood level air quality statistics that will be provided to the public consist of the following:

- Number of days with Good air quality

- Number of days with Unhealthy air quality
- Days over federal standards for ozone and PM2.5
- Neighborhood air quality compared to trends for the County and San Joaquin Valley

The District will release a beta version of the online web page to the public on March 1, 2015. The District will accept and consider comments and recommendations in a continuous effort to improve the information provided on the web page.

### **State and Federal legislative Priorities are Established by the Board**

The Governing Board unanimously approved the District's 2015 Legislative Platform. In the coming year, the District will continue to advocate on air quality issues that impact the Valley. The priority issues for 2015 include:

- (Federal) Seek common sense improvements to the Federal Clean Air Act
- (State) Advocate for an increase in state subvention funding to help offset the impacts of inflation and increased responsibilities
- (State) Seek policies/guidelines for the Carl Moyer program that continue to focus the program on public health and maintain funding formulas based upon severity of air quality challenges.
- (State) Seeking revenue from the Cap and Trade program
- (State/Federal) Insure that greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs are not at the expense of criteria pollutant programs
- (State/Federal) Ensure that disadvantaged communities are not "redlined" and that local control over resources to assist these communities is maintained
- (State/Federal) Seek adequate funding from state/federal government for the installation and operation of air quality monitoring instruments
- (State/Federal) Support efforts that provide for cost-effective alternatives to agricultural burning
- (State/Federal) Seek state and federal funding for technology advancement projects
- (State/Federal) Support for adequate resources/policies to reduce the air quality impact of wildfires

### **January Healthy Air Living Tip**

Pollution levels can vary greatly throughout the day. In order to help schools and individuals adjust their outdoor activities to minimize negative health impacts when air pollution levels are high, the District has developed the Real-Time Air Advisory Network (**RAAN**). RAAN gives Valley residents access to up-to-the-hour, localized air quality information via the web, the RAAN smart phone app, emails or text messages.

Ref: <http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN>

**Tip: - Go online with computer or smartphone to access RAAN and receive hourly air quality information for your area**

- Register to receive real-time air quality email, text message, or app alert updates
- RAAN also offers recommendations for outdoor exercise based on five different air-quality levels

For more information about RAAN, please visit <http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN>

### **December District Activities**

#### ***Outreach and Communications***

- Outreach and Communications continued to field media and public calls regarding Check Before You Burn and the Burn Cleaner program. Staff met with health-based nonprofit representatives to develop Healthy Air Living Schools materials and continued to develop the new web-based neighborhood data reporting system. Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendars were printed and distributed.

- OC staff responded to seven media calls and 277 public calls and emails, attended two events and presentations, and issued one news releases in December.

### Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 1026 incentive program applications. 845 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 63 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- \$3,972,441 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 129 claims were paid.
- \$2,035,290 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- \$241,106 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 139 claims were processed.

December 2014	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
Program	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	47	\$1,903,701.09	85	\$3,972,441.02	129	\$3,765,587.56
School Bus	1	1	\$17,930.19	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
On-Road Prop 1B	0	148	\$6,378,000.00	188	\$8,068,200.00	69	\$3,430,000.00
Lawn and Garden	4	11	\$2,315.55	11	\$2,315.55	9	\$2,076.05
REMOVE	105	326	\$302,405.00	326	\$296,950.00	1,872	\$2,035,290.44
Burn Cleaner	845	1048	\$1,911,000.00	1044	\$1,900,000.00	139	\$241,106.88
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$78,203.48
Public Benefit	8	0	\$0.00	2	\$88,180.27	0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>\$10,515,351.83</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>\$14,328,086.84</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>\$9,552,264.41</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total
1,401	368	45	1,814

Smoking Vehicles	22
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### Operations Overview

- Compliance** completed 1,940 inspections in December. 231 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 185.
- Permits** received 149 applications in December. 271] permits were issued.
- Strategies and Incentives** received 22 smoking vehicle reports in December.
- The District** received 137 environmental documents in December.

### Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board\*  
9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19

Citizens Advisory Committee\*  
10 a.m. Tues., Feb. 3

Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.  
5 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 29

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