

# District Highlights

March 19, 2015 Actions by the Governing Board

## **Governing Board Adopts Revised CEQA Guidance for Land-use Agencies**

The Governing Board's adoption of the revised *Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI)* provides updated assistance to local land-use agencies and consultants in implementing the state's primary environmental law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA implementation is often confounded by a complex maze of regulations and case law, and, with the GAMAQI, the District has historically provided local agencies and other interested parties a comprehensive guide to negotiating that maze. As importantly, the GAMAQI provides critical tools and significance thresholds that are useful and necessary to minimize and mitigate the impacts of development on air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. The adopted revision includes important updates in the areas of evolving regulations and case law, addressing greenhouse gases under CEQA, CEQA significance thresholds and mitigation techniques, and a significant number of streamlining tools designed to improve the quality and defensibility of environmental documents prepared by the Valley's permitting and land-use agencies. The revised GAMAQI can be found on the District's website at: [http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI\\_3-19-15.pdf](http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_3-19-15.pdf)

## **District Accepts \$400,722 in Funding for the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District**

The Governing Board approved receipt of Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program) funds in the amount of \$400,722 from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). Because of the District's statewide recognition by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for administering highly efficient and effective incentive programs, the District has been approached by several neighboring air districts to either assist with the administration of their Carl Moyer Program funds or to allocate a portion of their unused funding allotment to the District as an alternative to sending those funds back to ARB. Due to limited available incentive program staffing resources and program demand, the MDAQMD is unable to fully utilize their Carl Moyer Program funds prior to the statutory deadlines associated with the program. The Governing Board authorized receipt of unused MDAQMD's Carl Moyer Program funds to be used for emission-reduction projects within the Valley.

## **District Accepts \$300,000 from the California Energy Commission for Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness and Training Programs**

The Governing Board approved receipt of \$300,000 from the California Energy Commission for the implementation of the District's Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness and Training Programs. The District was successful in securing the maximum available grant award from this highly competitive solicitation to continue the work that was started with the District's Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. This current grant builds upon the District Governing Board's action plan for promoting, where feasible, the use of clean passenger vehicle technology in the Valley. This grant provides funding to develop and implement specific training materials for electrical contractors for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and training for local agency permitting of electric vehicle infrastructure. Additionally, the grant provides funding for outreach to promote public awareness of electric vehicles.

## **District Continues Administration of the Statewide School Bus Program for Other Air Districts throughout California**

Due to the District's capable and efficient administration of various incentive programs, in 2011 ARB, in conjunction with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), requested the District's assistance in administering the Statewide School Bus Retrofit Program. Since that time, the District has obligated over \$2.6 million in funding from ARB to retrofit school buses throughout the state with diesel particulate filters, with up to 7 percent of the total funding utilized to fully offset the District's administrative costs. The District Governing Board approved the continued administration of this important program on behalf of the state as well as an increase in the District's Budget appropriation for this program to accommodate greater than expected funding for the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, the Governing Board authorized \$480,612 in funding from ARB for the District to administer a new program component for retrofit filter element replacement on specific existing school buses.

## **Governing Board Approves Funding for Technology Advancement Projects**

The Governing Board approved seven new projects totaling \$3,648,820 for Technology Advancement Program funding. Proposals were received through a competitive Request for Proposals, and included multiple projects in each of the three technology focus areas identified for the program; renewable energy, waste solutions and mobile sources. The Technology Advancement Program was adopted in 2010, and identifies, solicits, and supports projects that accelerate the use of innovative clean-air technologies that bring about emissions reductions as rapidly as practicable.

## **2014 Annual Air Toxics Report**

The Governing Board reviewed and approved the 2014 Annual Air Toxics Report, which describes efforts undertaken to reduce air toxics from existing sources of pollution and to prevent the creation of new air toxic risks from new and expanding facilities. The District implements an efficient air toxics program that integrates local, state and federal air toxics mandates. Under this program, the District has quantified toxic emissions and performed public health risk analysis for more than 5,700 facilities throughout the Valley. Over the past two decades, emissions of air toxics and the associated health risk in the San Joaquin Valley have been reduced by more than 90 percent, and the District continues to track potential toxic emissions and health risk from new and existing facilities throughout the San Joaquin Valley on an ongoing basis. This year, the report also discusses the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's revised Risk Assessment Guidelines that will be implemented in early 2015 with the District's revised risk management policy. This revised policy is designed to implement the Governing Board's guidance to provide the public continued access to information about facilities' air toxic emissions and enhanced protection of children and the public overall, while preventing unreasonable restrictions on permitting actions. The report is available on the District website ([http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/air\\_toxics\\_annual\\_reports.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/busind/pto/air_toxics_annual_reports.htm)).

## **March Healthy Air Living Tip**

The amount of energy required to deliver water to your home is significant. Over-watering your lawn and outdoor landscaping not only results in excess air pollution emissions from power plants, but as California faces one of its most severe droughts on record, it is more important than ever to reduce water usage as much as possible.

Reference: <http://saveourwater.com/what-you-can-do/outdoor/>

<http://www.fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/PublicUtilities/Watermanagement/Conservation/Schedule.htm>

**Tip: Consult your local area watering schedule and minimize the amount of water used in landscaping. In the winter, do not water when rain is in the forecast, and check your automatic water timer frequently.**

For more clean air tips, see [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).

## January-February District Activities

### **Outreach and Communications**

- Outreach and Communications spent the first two months of this year continuing the momentum of Check Before You Burn and the Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar, putting production of the Annual Report into high gear, and making its annual appearance at the World Ag Expo in Tulare. Staff assisted the grants department in promoting the Burn Cleaner program and also provided support for the upcoming particulate conference in conjunction with NASA.
- In January, OC staff responded to 16 media calls and 172 public calls and emails, and attended three events and presentations. In February, staff responded to six media calls and 90 public calls and emails, attended three events and presentations, and issued two news releases.

### **Grant and Incentive Programs**

- In January, the District received 711 incentive program applications. 487 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 40 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program. In February, the District received 456] incentive program applications. 254 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 42 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program
- In January, \$960,963 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 71 claims were paid. In February, \$2,385,338 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 72 claims were paid.
- In January, \$530,563 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims. In February, \$926,705 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims
- In January, \$473,591 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 250 claims were processed. In February, \$457,391 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 224 claims were processed

| January 2015           | 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 |
| Heavy Duty             | 40           | 45                        | \$1,950,194.69               | 28                   | \$960,963.85                 | 71                   | \$2,868,681.08        |
| School Bus             | 0            | 0                         | \$0.00                       | 2                    | \$195,773.29                 | 2                    | \$163,201.63          |
| On-Road Prop 1B        | 0            | 1                         | \$100,000.00                 | 16                   | \$674,500.00                 | 73                   | \$2,930,000.00        |
| Lawn and Garden        | 7            | 8                         | \$2,000.00                   | 8                    | \$2,000.00                   | 9                    | \$1,989.50            |
| REMOVE                 | 169          | 156                       | \$245,076.00                 | 156                  | \$210,665.00                 | 782                  | \$530,563.27          |
| Burn Cleaner           | 487          | 875                       | \$1,347,500.00               | 871                  | \$1,336,500.00               | 250                  | \$473,591.35          |
| Technology Advancement | 0            | 0                         | \$0.00                       | 0                    | \$0.00                       | 0                    | \$0.00                |
| Public Benefit         | 8            | 0                         | \$0.00                       | 0                    | \$0.00                       | 35                   | \$601,083.55          |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>711</b>   | <b>1085</b>               | <b>\$3,644,770.69</b>        | <b>1081</b>          | <b>\$3,380,402.14</b>        | <b>1,222</b>         | <b>\$7,569,110.38</b> |

| Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons) |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Nox                                       | PM  | ROG | Total |
| 195                                       | 288 | 9   | 492   |

| February 2015          | 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             | 42                        | 38                           | \$1,924,911.43        | 54                           | \$2,385,338.74        | 72                    | \$1,878,765.97        |
| School Bus             | 0                         | 3                            | \$185,371.92          | 0                            | \$0.00                | 1                     | \$93,213.67           |
| On-Road Prop 1B        | 0                         | 0                            | \$0.00                | 0                            | \$0.00                | 20                    | \$789,800.00          |
| Lawn and Garden        | 12                        | 9                            | \$1,999.50            | 9                            | \$1,999.50            | 8                     | \$2,000.00            |
| REMOVE                 | 144                       | 229                          | \$309,583.88          | 231                          | \$374,467.88          | 1,914                 | \$926,705.30          |
| Burn Cleaner           | 254                       | 577                          | \$956,000.00          | 573                          | \$944,000.00          | 224                   | \$457,391.53          |
| Technology Advancement | 0                         | 0                            | \$0.00                | 0                            | \$0.00                | 0                     | \$0.00                |
| Public Benefit         | 4                         | 1                            | \$91,450.14           | 1                            | \$91,450.14           | 40                    | \$409,529.68          |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>456</b>                | <b>857</b>                   | <b>\$3,469,316.87</b> | <b>868</b>                   | <b>\$3,797,256.26</b> | <b>2,279</b>          | <b>\$4,557,406.15</b> |

| Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons) |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Nox                                       | PM  | ROG | Total |
| 248                                       | 207 | 19  | 474   |

## Operations Overview

- **Compliance** completed 1809 inspections in January and 2,368 in February. 508 NOVs were issued in January and 190 in February. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 189 in January and 292 in February.
- **Permits** received 107 applications in January and 125 in February. 225 permits were issued in January and 328 in February.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 18 smoking vehicle reports in January and 18 in February.
- **The District** received 125 environmental documents in January and 130 in February.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***  
9 a.m. Thursday, April 16

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***  
10 a.m. Tues., April 21

**Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.**  
5 p.m. Thurs., April 23

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