

District Highlights

November 19, 2015 Actions by the Governing Board

Board Accepts \$4.97 Million from EPA to Replace Tractors and Wood Burning Devices

The District accepted \$4.97 million from EPA to replace tractors and wood burning devices under the Federal Targeted Airshed Grant Program. The District's award represents approximately half of all funding that was available nationwide. This funding will be directed into two of the District's highly-successful incentive programs: the Agricultural Tractor Replacement Program and the Burn Cleaner Program. The District's Agricultural Tractor Replacement Program has successfully obligated over \$80 million to replace more than 2,200 Valley-based agricultural tractors with new, cleaner tractors. The Agricultural Tractor Replacement Program operates as a partnership with Valley farmers and tractor dealers to replace old high polluting tractors with new low emission tractors. The \$2,483,607.75 from this grant will help fund the replacement of approximately 187 agricultural tractors.

The Burn Cleaner Program has successfully obligated over \$9 million to install more than 8,100 clean burning devices in homes throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The Burn Cleaner Program operates as a partnership with Valley residents and hearth retailers to install new clean burning heating devices. The \$2,483,607.75 from this grant will help fund the replacement of approximately 2,484 wood burning devices in the San Joaquin Valley.

Air District Pursues Measures to Curtail Wildfires

The extreme drought currently being experienced in the San Joaquin Valley and across the western United States has led to a number of conditions that have exacerbated the Valley's air quality challenge. Due to the excessively dry conditions, the buildup of combustible materials, and the mortality of millions of trees from the drought and beetle bark infestation, the region has experienced a number of large wildfires and California has reached an all-time high for fire danger.

Air pollution generated from wildfires is enormous and well exceeds total industrial and mobile source emissions in San Joaquin Valley overwhelming all control measures resulting in periods of excessively high particulate matter and ozone concentrations.

The District Governing Board voted to pursue the following strategies aimed at reducing wildfire emissions

1. Develop potential changes to District's rules, policies, and procedures to facilitate more effective use of prescribed burning as a means to reduce the number and severity of future wildfires.
2. Work with local, state, and federal land managers and fire suppression agencies in an ongoing effort to identify gaps in land management and fire suppression policies and practices and develop solutions.
3. Support S. 235 (Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2015) and similar federal and state legislation to enhance and preserve funding for land and forest management.
4. Support and pursue legislative or administrative initiatives to allow for mechanical removal of forest fuel buildup in high hazard zones.

5. Develop a targeted public education campaign to increase public awareness of the enormous damage to public health due to wildfires and build public support for increased prescribed burning that may help reduce the number and severity of future wildfires.

In the coming months the District will work with state and federal land managers and other interested parties and will hold public workshops to formulate explicit strategies that advance the above stated goals.

Air District Adopts Measures to Assist Farmers with Identifying Economically Feasible Avenues to Dispose of Agricultural Wood Waste in Light of the Current Lack of Biomass Power Plant Capacity

Since 2003, the District has worked with farmers throughout the Valley and has instituted a number of effective measures that have resulted in an 80% reduction in the open burning of agricultural waste.

Due to the historic drought conditions that the Valley has experienced and the demise of the biomass power industry, Valley farmers are facing significant challenges in disposing agricultural wood waste. Since 2012, the Valley has lost 6 biomass plants, which has considerably reduced the available options to dispose of agricultural wood waste, especially material from large orchard removals. Failure to provide farmers with economically feasible alternatives to open burning can reverse the major progress that has been made in reducing air pollution.

The Governing Board adopted a series of measures designed to assist farmers in disposing of agricultural wood waste in an economically feasible manner while minimizing air quality impacts.

1. Petition the District's Hearing Board to issue a stipulated order of abatement as an intermediate response to the current lack of feasible alternatives to dispose of agricultural wood waste.
2. Send a written request to the California Public Utilities Commission to extend Power Purchase Agreements with existing biomass facilities at current pricing levels similar to what is called for by the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation on the State's tree mortality epidemic for existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high hazard zones.
3. Convene a workgroup with agricultural representatives to explore and advance waste disposal techniques as alternatives to open burning and traditional biomass power plants.
4. Review the current state of the Valley's biomass power industry and available feasible waste disposal alternatives, and assess the need and feasibility for potential actions by the District to roll back current agricultural open burning restrictions for certain crops until technologically achievable and economically feasible alternatives are available.

District Receives Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The District received the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the GFOA's highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. This award was for the latest District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (fiscal year 2013-14 CAFR) representing a significant achievement for the District and representing its commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental reporting and transparency to the public. To earn this award, the CAFR was judged by an impartial panel as meeting the high standards of the GFOA program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the District's financial story and motivate the public to read the CAFR.

September District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- The District spent September communicated health advisories and information related to wildfires burning in the area that were impacting air quality in the Valley. In addition, the District worked to publicize and finalize details related to both the full and the temporary device registration component of Rule 4901. The District further advanced the Healthy Air Living Schools throughout the Valley.
- In September, District staff responded to 35 media calls and 289 public calls and 30 emails, issued seven news releases and attended 6 events and presentations.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- In September, the District received 380 incentive program applications. 166 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 28 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In September, \$1,511,341.30 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 123 claims were paid.
- In September, \$721,026.10 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- In September, \$137,921.17 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 85 claims were processed.

September 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	28	55	\$1,511,341.30	36	\$1,006,133.98	123	\$4,064,408.16
School Bus	0	5	\$112,515.34	2	\$57,089.84	19	\$900,419.25
On-Road Prop 1B	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$50,000.00	15	\$673,000.00
Lawn and Garden	8	11	\$2,085.03	11	\$2,085.03	15	\$2,815.58
REMOVE	168	446	\$479,945.00	442	\$440,096.00	89	\$721,026.10
Burn Cleaner	166	196	\$294,500.00	196	\$294,500.00	85	\$137,921.17
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$270,000.00
Public Benefit	10	8	\$403,885.59	11	\$527,539.70	23	\$417,034.53
Totals	380	721	\$2,804,272.26	699	\$2,377,444.55	370	\$7,186,624.79

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total
171	90	20	281

Smoking Vehicles	27
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Operations Overview

- Completed 2270 inspections in September, and 182 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 154.
- Received 165 permit applications in September, and 546 permits were issued.
- Received 27 smoking vehicle reports in September.
- Received 159 environmental documents in September.

October District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- The District spent October finalizing the 2016 Annual Kids Air Quality Calendar and preparing to distribute it throughout the Valley. In addition, the District cohosted several large media events including a demonstration of a Technology Advancement Project (TAP) at a Kings County Dairy which was attended by over 100 people and a second TAP launch at the Ikea warehouse facility in Kern County.
- In October, District staff responded to 16 media calls and 138 public calls and 48 emails, issued six news releases and attended 9 events and presentations.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- In October, the District received 567 incentive program applications. 286 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 101 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In October, \$3,839,256.96 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 84 claims were paid.
- In October, \$585,852.61 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- In October, \$158,555.00 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 93 claims were processed.

October 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	101	85	\$3,839,256.96	64	\$3,034,879.73	84	\$2,653,298.74
School Bus	1	0	\$0.00	6	\$128,827.18	30	\$444,104.89
On-Road Prop 1B	25	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	23	\$995,000.00
Lawn and Garden	7	8	\$1,900.00	8	\$1,900.00	7	\$1,550.00
REMOVE	141	75	\$286,438.74	70	\$173,838.74	4,098	\$585,852.61
Burn Cleaner	286	281	\$433,500.00	281	\$433,500.00	93	\$158,555.00
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Public Benefit	6	2	\$134,649.24	4	\$271,965.95	11	\$401,782.18
Totals	567	451	\$4,695,744.94	433	\$4,044,911.60	4,346	\$5,240,143.42

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total
395	92	33	520

Smoking Vehicles	26
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Operations Overview

- Completed 2039 inspections in October, and 180 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 99.
- Received 133 permit applications in October, and 195 permits were issued.
- Received 26 smoking vehicle reports in October.
- Received 135 environmental documents in October.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 a.m. Dec. 17, 2015

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 a.m. Jan. 5, 2016

Enviro. Justice Adv. Grp.

5:30 p.m. Feb. 25, 2016

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*