

Actions by the Governing Board – September 17, 2020

Report on 2020 Wildfire Season

The Governing Board received a verbal update on the 2020 wildfire season to date, including details on how wildfire emissions overwhelm all other air pollution emissions in the Valley, detailed information on wildfires that had impacted the Valley's air quality through the summer, and information on the resulting elevated ozone and PM2.5 concentrations that occurred from wildfire impacts. The 2020 wildfire season set a new record for the largest fire in state history - the August Complex fire, which played a role in impacted the Valley's air quality during the summer season. During this past fire season, the District took action to notify the public of when air quality impacts were occurring through issuing health cautionary statements, the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), our dedicated wildfire webpage, and through responding to numerous public calls and media requests.

District Governing Board Approves Community Recommendation for Third Year Implementation of AB 617

Under state law, CARB, in consultation with air districts, is required to select communities for action under the third year of AB 617 implementation by Jan 1, 2021. CARB asked air districts to submit their recommendations for communities to be selected by October 1, 2020. District staff presented to the Governing Board an analysis and prioritization methodology for identified disadvantaged Valley communities and presented recommended communities to be nominated to receive additional clean air resources and public engagement under AB 617. With significant, effective resources already at work in the first and second-year communities in the District's Central and Southern Regions, the District focused this third round of community prioritization on disadvantaged communities that had expressed significant interest in the AB 617 program and had the highest CalEnviroScreen score. Contingent of sufficient funding being available, the District recommended that the Arvin-Lamont area be selected by CARB for third-year resources for the development of community air monitoring and emissions reduction programs. This nomination was based on extensive air quality analysis, numerous health indicators from the state's CalEnviroScreen model, and various other socioeconomic indicators. Should more funding become available that would allow CARB's selection of more communities without diluting the necessary resources for implementation of AB 617 programs in all the existing communities, the District recommended consideration of the Madera County community of La Vina as a second Valley community for consideration. After discussion and public comment, the Board directed the District to proceed, to the extent that state resources are available, with recommending Arvin-Lamont and La Vina to CARB for the state's third-year implementation of AB 617.

District Governing Board Accepted Over \$30 Million from the EPA to Fund Agricultural Equipment

The District submitted four proposals to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to the highly competitive 2019/2020 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program and subsequently approved two clean-air projects in the San Joaquin Valley. These two proposals were ranked and selected for funding under the highly competitive Targeted Air Shed Grant Program. On June 25, 2020, EPA informed the District that two of the four proposals were selected for funding. Our low-dust nut harvesting equipment replacement proposal was selected for funding in the amount of \$10,366,695, and our agricultural tractor replacement proposal was selected for funding in the amount of \$20,000,000. The low-dust nut harvesting equipment grant will help fund the replacement of approximately 170, nut-harvesting pieces of equipment with new, low-dust harvesting pieces of equipment. The ag tractor replacement grant will help fund the replacement of approximately 526 older, high-polluting tractors with significantly cleaner Tier 4 tractors operating throughout the Valley.

District Governing Board Accepted Over \$2.3 Million in Additional Proposition 1B Revenue to Fund Additional Goods Movement Emissions Reduction Projects

Since 2008, the District has implemented the Prop 1B grant program which has provided over \$183 million in funding for the replacement of heavy-duty trucks, engine retrofits, locomotive replacements and transportation refrigeration unit replacements. The Prop 1B program has provided significant emission reductions to the San Joaquin Valley, reducing nearly 23,000 tons of pollutants. Emission reductions from these heavy duty mobile sources are critical to helping the San Joaquin Valley to meet state and federal air quality standards as well as improving public health along the states goods movement transportation corridors. In August, the California Air Resources Board notified the District that additional Prop 1B funding was available for the District from unused funding in the statewide truck loan assistance and filter substrate programs. The District Governing Board accepted the allocation of this funding total is \$2,329,486. This funding can be used for additional heavy duty truck, locomotive, or transportation refrigeration unit replacement projects in the San Joaquin Valley utilizing existing Prop 1B program guidelines.

August District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In August, the District provided resident guidance during record-breaking wildfire season by promoting resources and educating the public on how to protect public health during this unprecedented wildfire season. The District issued five News Releases and provided step by step instructions on how to build their own DIY home air filter. To see some of the information shared please visit [Valley Air News](#).
- In August, District staff responded to 84 media calls, 137 public calls, and 182 emails, and attended three virtual event/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In August, the District received 1450 incentive program applications. 211 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 668 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In August, \$22,529,481.45 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$10,703,085.67 in claims was paid.
- In August, \$1,261,339.74 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In August, \$425,200.00 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	August 2020	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
Burn Cleaner	Burn Cleaner – Wood Stove Change Out	211	179	\$412,500.00	179	\$412,500.00	\$425,200.00
Commuter Subsidy	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,442.00
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	48	28	\$716,312.00	28	\$716,312.00	\$311,364.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Diesel	5	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$176,850.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	0	1	\$42,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$42,000.00
	Ag-UTV New Electric Vehicle	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	446	85	\$1,100,232.44	85	\$1,100,232.44	\$70,980.40
	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	0	3	\$1,843,227.08	1	\$460,497.58	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	143	286	\$16,852,863.12	269	\$15,860,330.90	\$8,254,410.59
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement 2 for 1	0	1	\$228,661.81	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$111,150.00
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	15	\$699,411.00	16	\$879,617.91	\$370,500.00
	On-Road Ag Truck Replacement	0	4	\$566,774.00	0	\$0.00	\$978,920.44
	On-Road New Purchase	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
	On-Road New Vehicle	0	8	\$80,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Trade-Up	14	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	11	4	\$400,000.00	4	\$400,000.00	\$386,910.24
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	3	1	\$25,000.00	1	\$25,000.00	\$31,671.43
	Residential New Purchase	72	92	\$4,244.95	92	\$4,244.95	\$4,844.25
	Residential Replacement	108	113	\$25,550.00	113	\$25,550.00	\$30,000.00
Light Duty	Charge Up - Private	4	1	\$6,000.00	1	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up - Public	10	18	\$600,000.00	18	\$600,000.00	\$35,000.00
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	158	104	\$292,000.00	104	\$292,000.00	\$260,000.00
	EFMP Replacement	41	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	-\$7,000.00

	TITU Admin/Events	13	8	\$76,909.34	7	\$76,909.34	\$80,878.63
	TITU Payroll	12	7	\$136,612.44	7	\$136,612.44	\$136,612.44
	TITU Repairs	103	115	\$765,544.75	115	\$765,544.75	\$734,398.67
	Van Pool Agency CFP	6	8	\$21,990.00	8	\$21,990.00	\$21,450.00
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	39	57	\$918,174.19	31	\$584,975.14	\$14,407.55
	Community Improvement - Vehicle Use Reduction	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$539,151.00	\$0.00
Remove II	Alternate Fuel Training	1	1	\$15,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Advancement	Technology Advancement - RFP	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement School Bus	0	20	\$7,994,777.67	26	\$10,394,777.67	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	0	17	\$5,700,000.00	4	\$1,600,000.00	\$0.00
Totals		1450	1176	\$39,523,784.79	1111	\$34,922,246.12	\$12,471,990.64

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
1,513	309	286	2,108

Smoking Vehicles	8
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Operations Overview

- Completed 2,243 inspections in August, and 188 NOV's were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 116.
- Received 179 permit applications in August, and 355 permits were issued.
- Received 248 environmental documents in August.