

Actions by the Governing Board – October 21, 2021

Valley Air District Inspector Wins Prestigious Award

Supervising Air Quality Inspector, Kathy Crump, was recognized at the Governing Board meeting as the recipient of this year's Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award. The award, named for a Valley Air District air-quality inspector who died in the line of duty, is given each year by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) Enforcement Managers' Committee to an inspector in one of the state's 35 air quality management districts. Kathi's wide array of contributions over her 25-year career include answering complaints and conducting inspections, health risk assessments, shaping policy in asbestos enforcement, developing rules in gasoline vapor recovery and many other technical compliance advancements. "Her dedication to public service, intelligence, work ethic, and service to enhance public health for all Californians makes her an outstanding example of the work performed across our state." said Jacob Whitson, Valley Air District Director of Compliance. Presentation of this award has taken place since 2003 in honor of Rodney Swartzendruber, an inspector killed in an auto accident while assisting the state Air Resources Board during the Westley tire fire in Stanislaus County in 1999, and recognizes inspectors who consistently demonstrate outstanding performance and make significant contributions that benefit air pollution control efforts in an exemplary manner.

Receive Update and Approve Enhancements To Burn Cleaner Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved enhancements to the Burn Cleaner Program which provides financial incentives to Valley residents to replace their wood burning devices with cleaner technologies in order to reduce particulate matter emissions. The approved enhancements require residents with access to piped natural gas to purchase and install a natural gas device as their replacement unit. Residents that do not have access to piped natural gas are still able to purchase and install a certified wood or pellet device. Through the Burn Cleaner Program, the District has issued nearly 24,500 vouchers totaling \$43.6 million in funding to residents throughout the Valley. The District works closely with program partners and is actively engaged with the community and hearth industry to encourage participation in the program, particularly among low-income Valley residents. Program applications can be submitted through an easy to use online portal which significantly streamlines the process for applicants and enhances the customer service experience.

District Engagement On Current State and Federal Climate Initiatives

The Governing Board re-affirmed its policies on climate change and provided direction to staff to ensure that the Valley is well-positioned to respond to opportunities under new state and federal climate initiatives in support of the District's public health mission, including:

1. Engagement with policy makers on new climate initiatives at the state and federal level to maximize opportunities for achieving the dual goals of reducing air pollution (criteria/air toxics) and GHG emissions.
2. Engagement with Valley stakeholders to identify and leverage local opportunities that can be supported through funding and programs available under new state and federal climate initiatives.
3. Support to Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations, cities, and counties in identifying and evaluating potential projects, and providing technical assistance as needed.

Accept And Approve \$750,000 In State Funding And Approve New Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers For Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted \$750,000 in state funding to develop and implement the Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Pilot Grant program. In 2019, AB 836 established the foundation for CARB to develop the Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program which provides funding to upgrade ventilation systems and to provide portable air cleaners to create a network of clean air centers to provide vulnerable populations in the San Joaquin Valley a respite from wildfires and other smoke events. The program specifically targets vulnerable populations which can include AB 617 communities, disadvantaged communities, according to the CalEnviroScreen model, communities served by low-income schools, and lands belonging to federally recognized Indian tribes of other California Native Americans. Eligible locations for this new program will include, but are not limited to schools, community centers, senior centers, sports centers, libraries, or other public or private facilities. The District is working with CARB to finalize the program guidelines and anticipates opening up the program in the Fall of 2021.

Update On The 2021 Wildfire Season And District Efforts

The Governing Board received an update on the 2021 wildfire season including details on how wildfire emissions overwhelm all other air pollution emissions in the Valley; detailed information on wildfires that had affected the Valley's air quality during the record breaking year of 2020; information on the resulting elevated ozone and PM2.5 concentrations that occurred from these wildfire impacts; and current impacts of the 2021 wildfire season. The item also discussed recent precipitation levels across the Valley, and how the increasing drought conditions are leading to another severe wildfire season in 2021. The Governing Board also heard that during the wildfire season, the District takes action to notify the public of when air quality impacts were occurring through issuing health cautionary statements, Air Quality Alerts issued through the National Weather Service, the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) available on-line and through the Valley Air mobile device app, our dedicated dynamic wildfire webpage, and through responding to numerous public calls and media requests.

September District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- The District received \$178.2 million in new State funding to launch an expanded grant program to assist farmers in phasing out the open burning of woody waste through the use of new, cleaner practices, including the chipping of material for incorporation into the soil and other cleaner alternatives. With this new funding, the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Grant program was enhanced to provide additional funding for small agricultural operation of less than 100 total acres. Expanded funding options for vineyard removals; expanded options for chipped material disposal through beneficial reuse alternatives such as mulch or compost; and provide an option to fund the purchase of new chipping equipment to be used within the Valley, amongst other program enhancements.
- The District's Annual Report to the Community became available. To view it, visit www.valleyair.org. The report provides Valley residents with a detailed account of the District's operations in the preceding year. It outlines the District's goals, objectives, legal obligations and actions in a more concise and easy-to-follow format for the general public. To request your copy visit, public.education@valleyair.org.
- In September, District staff responded to 14 media calls, 51 public calls, and 22 emails, and attended six event/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In September, the District received 1,467 incentive program applications. 272 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 452 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In September, \$18,179,013.62 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$9,626,549.47 in claims was paid.
- In September, \$2,231,873.71 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In September, \$333,725.00 paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	September 2021	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	272	252	\$566,000.00	252	\$566,000.00	\$333,725.00
CAP & Trade	Demonstration – Cargo Handling	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$3,691,851.15
	Demonstration – New Electric Vehicle	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$59,588.75
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Fleet Expansion	95	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	223	128	\$4,781,540.00	128	\$4,781,540.00	\$556,152.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$154,518.85
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	0	13	\$175,500.00	13	\$175,500.00	\$76,604.78
	Dairy Feed Mixer Electrification	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$808,850.28
	Locomotive Replacement	0	1	\$2,667,220.95	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	104	147	\$8,838,194.79	156	\$8,870,405.25	\$6,808,465.58
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	13	1	\$36,557.88	8	\$743,867.98	\$332,684.80
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$439,273.18
	On-Road Emergency Vehicle Replacement	4	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road New Purchase	3	109	\$1,380,000.00	108	\$1,360,000.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	2	3	\$300,000.00	4	\$400,000.00	\$450,000.00

	On-Road VIP Vehicle Replacement	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Yard Truck Replacement	5	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	4	26	\$18,060.03	26	\$18,060.03	\$1,919.94
	Residential New Purchase	66	73	\$3,394.00	73	\$3,394.00	\$4,445.98
	Residential Replacement	58	87	\$20,215.61	87	\$20,215.61	\$32,055.48
Light Duty	Charge Up EV Charger – Private	3	4	\$114,000.00	4	\$114,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up EV Charger – Public	5	3	\$38,000.00	3	\$38,000.00	\$0.00
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	370	230	\$650,000.00	230	\$650,000.00	\$1,126,000.00
	EFMP Charger – Residential	0	15	\$28,373.18	15	\$28,373.18	\$4,373.18
	EFMP Replacement	38	7	\$64,500.00	7	\$64,500.00	\$205,500.00
	TITU Admin/Events	2	2	\$14,865.75	2	\$14,865.75	\$20,440.70
	TITU Payroll	2	5	\$114,072.76	5	\$114,072.76	\$123,607.13
	TITU Repairs	167	151	\$758,142.92	151	\$758,142.92	\$720,902.70
	Van Pool Agency CFP	6	6	\$13,560.00	6	\$13,560.00	\$31,050.00
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	17	26	\$430,170.69	23	\$446,271.14	\$217,700.18
	Alternative Fuel Training	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement School Bus	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$2,800,000.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	1	\$160,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	5	0	\$0.00	3	\$540,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	1,467	1,290	\$21,172,368.56	1,304	\$19,720,768.62	\$19,018,472.66

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
1,219	857	719	2,795

Smoking Vehicles	7
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Operations Overview

- Completed 1,458 inspections in September, and 238 NOV's were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 194.

- Received 201 permit applications in September, and 159 permits were issued.
- Received 7 smoking vehicle reports in September.
- Received 134 environmental documents in September.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Nov. 18

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Dec. 7

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Jan. 27

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.

Details: www.valleyair.org

**Webcast*