

## Actions by the Governing Board –April 15, 2021

### **District Governing Board Accepted Over \$1.5 Million in Carl Moyer State Reserve Project Funding to Install Zero-Emission Infrastructure Projects**

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted \$1,511,320 in Carl Moyer State Reserve Funds for the purpose of installing zero-emission infrastructure projects throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Eligible projects for this funding are limited to battery charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations. The revenue will be utilized in the District's Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program. Public and private entities are eligible to apply for the funding. Public entities include but are not limited to State, metropolitan, county, city, multi-county special district, school district, university, and federal agencies. Private entities include but are not limited to private organizations and corporations.

### **District Governing Board Accepted Over \$2 Million from CARB to Fund the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program**

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved \$2,040,000 in additional incentive funding for the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program. This program provides Valley residents incentives up to \$9,500 to replace their older, high polluting vehicles with new, cleaner, and more fuel efficient alternatives. The program is focused on low to moderate-income residents of disadvantaged communities and to date has resulted in the replacement of more than 3,400 vehicles throughout the Valley. The District has pioneered passenger vehicle repair and replacement programs in disadvantaged communities and this additional state funding will support the continued implementation of this highly successful program.

### **Continued Success of Residential Wood Burning Emissions Reduction Strategy during 2020-2021 Wood Burning Season**

The Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2020-2021 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. This was the second season to be implemented under the 2019 amendments to the wood-burning rule, which significantly increased the number of no-burn days in the Hot Spot counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kern. Although the Valley experienced poor air quality during wildfire impacts in early November 2020, and during prolonged periods of poor dispersion, the Valley continued the overall trend of improved air quality. Notable ongoing improvements included the continued rarity of unhealthy PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality, increasing Good and Moderate Air Quality Index (AQI) days across all counties, and zero exceedances recorded of the 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard.

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Burn Cleaner program, with over \$6.1 million in funding for over 2,500 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2020-21. Nearly 95% of the funding was using to purchase natural gas devices. Since 2009, the District has issued over 23,000 vouchers for an allocation of over \$40 million.

This past winter saw another successful outreach campaign implemented with an increased emphasis on health impacts of woodsmoke through messaging within paid advertisements, educational videos, social media and other outreach opportunities. Valley residents expressing significant interest in residential wood burning and air quality with over 500,000 visits to the District's daily curtailment status webpage, over 50,000 calls to the District's 1-800-SMOG-INFO number, and over 400 complaints for suspected wood burning activity. The success of this past winter season would not have been possible without the commitment from Valley residents to reduce their wood

burning emissions, coupled with the District's multi-faceted program that utilizes wood burning curtailments, incentives, public education/outreach, and strong enforcement to reduce wood smoke.

## District Governing Board Receives Update on Incentive Program to Support On-Field Alternatives to the Open Burning of Agricultural Materials

The Valley Air District Governing Board received an update on the implementation of the District's Alternatives to Agricultural Burning Incentive Program. To support the Valley's ongoing phase-out of agricultural open burning, in 2018 the District Governing Board authorized the creation of the Alternatives to Agricultural Burning Incentive Program. This program provides up to \$600 per acre for chipping of agricultural material with soil incorporation and up to \$300 per acre for chipping without soil incorporation, as an alternative to open agricultural burning. The District has seen a very strong demand for this program. Since 2018, the District Governing Board has allocated \$23.7 million to this program resulting in the deployment of alternative practices at nearly 38,000 acres of orchard and vineyard removals, for over 1,000,000 tons of agricultural materials, resulting in the reduction of 2,129 tons of NOx, 3,730 tons of PM and 2,820 tons of ROG emissions. Given the significant increase in participation and continued strong demand in this program, the Governing Board increased funding for this program by up to an additional \$3.0 million for the remainder of the 2020-21 fiscal year and dedicated up to 30% of this additional funding for smaller agricultural operations.

## March District Activities

### Outreach and Communications

- In March, District staff announced the conclusion of its 2020-2021 Check Before You Burn program. While residential wood burning restrictions are no longer in place, we ask Valley residents to continue to refrain from burning any solid fuel. As well, as remind residents that funding for the District's Burn Cleaner incentive program is still available.
- With the announcement of Arvin/Lamont as the new AB 617 community, District staff started to promote heavily the request for residents, businesses and other community stakeholders from the Arvin/Lamont area to participate in the formation of a community steering committee.
- In March, District staff responded to 2 media calls, 25 public calls, and 20 emails, and attended three event/presentations.

### Grants and Incentive Programs

- In March, the District received 1,570 incentive program applications. 317 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 352 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In March, \$17,080,373.97 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$13,988,987.62 in claims was paid.
- In March, \$2,037,621.39 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In March, \$1,142,841.86 paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	March 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

<b>Burn Cleaner</b>	Burn Cleaner – Wood Stove Change Out	317	301	\$780,000.00	301	\$780,000.00	\$1,142,841.86
<b>CAP &amp; Trade</b>	Demonstration – Cargo Handling	2	2	\$199,790.00	1	\$50,719.00	\$5,825,157.00
	Demonstration – New Electric Vehicle	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$37,090.34
<b>Heavy Duty</b>	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	54	66	\$1,610,370.00	66	\$1,610,370.00	\$302,280.00
	Ag Engine Alt Fuel to Electric	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Diesel	3	3	\$50,870.00	2	\$20,720.00	\$73,800.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	5	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
	Ag Engine New Electric	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	2	41	\$553,500.00	41	\$553,500.00	\$424,209.15
	Locomotive Replacement	0	2	\$5,334,441.90	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	210	130	\$8,564,381.29	115	\$7,336,640.41	\$10,643,952.53
	Off-Road Engine Repower	1	1	\$235,070.73	1	\$235,070.73	\$0.00
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	46	8	\$651,140.05	2	\$149,815.98	\$0.00
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	1	2	\$80,600.00	0	\$0.00	\$317,761.01
	On-Road Ag Truck Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$109,715.85
	On-Road New Purchase	3	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$389,181.76
	On-Road Trade-Up	0	0	\$0.00	7	\$400,000.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	23	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,599,092.77
Yard Truck Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$125,244.55	
<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	Commercial Replacement	54	66	\$1,610,370.00	66	\$1,610,370.00	\$302,280.00
	Residential New Purchase	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Residential Replacement	3	3	\$50,870.00	2	\$20,720.00	\$73,800.00
<b>Light Duty</b>	Charge Up - Private	2	5	\$133,000.00	5	\$133,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up - Public	14	16	\$485,000.00	16	\$485,000.00	\$0.00
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	385	305	\$864,000.00	305	\$864,000.00	\$507,000.00

	EFMP Replacement	89	197	\$1,766,000.00	197	\$1,766,000.00	\$945,000.00
	TITU Admin/Events	11	4	\$20,866.55	4	\$20,866.55	(\$3,974.98)
	TITU Payroll	11	5	\$58,910.79	5	\$58,910.79	\$88,163.42
	TITU Repairs	151	120	\$592,505.80	120	\$592,505.80	\$487,902.95
	Van Pool Agency CFP	7	7	\$18,390.00	7	\$18,390.00	\$13,530.00
<b>Public Benefit</b>	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	36	77	\$1,490,839.28	35	\$691,257.46	\$469,851.25
<b>REMOVE II</b>	Alternate Fuel Training	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>VW NOx Mitigation</b>	Replacement School Bus	0	10	\$4,000,000.00	6	\$2,400,000.00	\$800,000.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	1	2	\$320,000.00	1	\$160,000.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	3	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>\$27,853,732.66</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>\$18,370,822.99</b>	<b>\$24,332,207.98</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
705	411	327	1,443

<b>Smoking Vehicles</b>	<b>5</b>
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## Operations Overview

- Completed 2,965 inspections in March, and 163 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 210.
- Received 212 permit applications in March, and 179 permits were issued.
- Received 187 environmental documents in March.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***  
9:00 AM, May 20

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***  
10:00 AM, Jun. 1

**Environmental Justice Advisory Group**  
5:30 PM, Jun. 24

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

Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

\*Webcast