

## Actions by the Governing Board – Apr. 20, 2023

### 2022-2023 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy

The Valley Air District Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2022-2023 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. This was the fourth season 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. As described in more detail below, the Valley achieved the following PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality milestones during the 2022-2023 winter season:

- Maintained continued progress in increasing number of “Good” and “Moderate” Air Quality Index (AQI) days across all of the counties in the District
- Set new record high number of “Good” AQI days across the Valley’s counties
- Recorded zero exceedances of the 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard for a fourth consecutive season, contributing to the Valley’s ongoing attainment of this standard
- Recorded second lowest number of days Valley counties exceeded 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and set new record low number of exceedances of this standard for the month of January, and the combined January to February period
- Set record low average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration across the counties of the Valley
- Winter season PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation analysis shows that air quality has greatly improved for key components of PM<sub>2.5</sub> as a result of the District’s Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy, Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out grant program, and other air quality improvement strategies

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out grant program, with over \$6.3 million in funding for over 1,700 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2022-23. Nearly 94% of the funding was used to purchase natural gas devices. Since 2009, the District has issued over 28,000 vouchers for an allocation of over \$57.6 million.

This past winter saw another successful outreach campaign implemented with an increased emphasis on health impacts of wood smoke 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 330,000 visits to the District’s daily curtailment status webpage, over 38,000 calls to the District’s 1-800-SMOG-INFO number, and over 480 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.

### New Valley-Wide Clean Air Rooms Residential Air Filtration Program for Valley Community

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved up to \$1,000,000 in funding to go towards a new Valley-wide Clean Air Rooms incentive program to provide residential air filtration units to residents residing in disadvantaged communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley. This program builds on the success of a \$250,000 pilot program administered by the District in 2022, through which more than 1,200 residential filtration devices were distributed directly to the most vulnerable populations throughout the Valley, free of charge. Through this new Valley-wide *Clean Air Rooms* Program the District will work with one or more vendors to provide a new, CARB-certified high-efficiency residential air filtration unit and one additional filter element to each eligible applicant. Based on past experience, the District expects to be able to provide between 3,333 and 6,667 new filter units through this program.

## Project Plan for Implementation of Car Share Program Within the Shafter AB 617 Community

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved up to \$500,000 in dedicated state funding for the implementation of a Car Share Program within the Shafter AB 617 community, consistent with the approved Shafter Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP). The passage of AB 617 initiated a statewide effort to monitor and reduce localized air pollution, and improve public health, in identified disadvantaged communities through new community-focused and community-driven actions. The City of Shafter is one of four communities in the San Joaquin Valley approved to receive clean air resources available under AB 617. The Car Share program will provide Shafter residents with access to near-zero and zero-emission vehicles to run errands, shop for groceries and attend medical appointments, etc. The service will provide residents with another transportation option when traditional transit options are not available or inconvenient. The Car Share program will be a partnership between the District and/or the City of Shafter and the selected grantee via an open competitive solicitation process and will utilize established state criteria for calculating emission benefits and establishing funding criteria.

## March District Activities

### Outreach and Communications

- In March, the District hosted a Clean Ag Equipment Showcase at the Fresno County Farm Bureau to help area farmers learn about agricultural-related grants that can help improve air quality. The District displayed an electric ag utility task vehicle, electric ag tractor and other zero-emission ag equipment.
- As part of the District's ongoing efforts to collaborate with the agricultural business community to deploy the cleanest, sustainable technologies, the District advertised approved enhancements aimed at increasing accessibility to the District's programs by small farmers. Small farming operations can take advantage of more funding with the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program and Ag Tractor Replacement Program. To learn more about these two programs and other grants, visit [www.valleyair.org/grants](http://www.valleyair.org/grants).
- In March, District staff responded to 5 media calls, 21 public calls, 44 emails, and participated in 15 events/presentation.

### Grants and Incentive Programs

- In March, the District received 2,277 incentive program applications. 306 were for the Burn Cleaner Program and 491 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In March, \$32,175,923.05 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$16,914,700.86 in claims was paid.
- In March, \$4,688,398.37 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In March, \$1,230,949.30 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

March 2023	Applications	Grants Offered	Grants Executed	Amount Paid
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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
AB617	Urban Greening Mitigation Measure	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00
	Vegetative Barriers Mitigation Measure	0	1	\$1,000,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out – Decommission	2	1	\$750.00	1	\$750.00	\$0.00
	Wood Stove Change Out – New Device	304	307	\$1,134,200.00	307	\$1,134,200.00	\$1,230,949.30
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	94	112	\$4,325,560.00	112	\$4,325,560.00	\$3,140,253.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Diesel	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$62,640.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	47	59	\$798,300.00	59	\$798,300.00	\$454,820.74
	Dairy Feed Mixer Electrification	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,035,502.16
	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	5	2	\$8,340,315.00	2	\$3,981,008.00	\$0.00
	Locomotive Replacement	0	1	\$3,294,285.55	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	326	148	\$10,739,420.12	175	\$14,387,776.90	\$10,024,351.51
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement 2 for 1	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$385,638.87
	Off-Road Engine Repower	0	1	\$27,592.22	0	\$0.00	\$237,636.92
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$223,857.66
	Off-Road Used Ag Vehicle Replacement	4	2	\$206,859.28	4	\$424,500.33	\$0.00
	On-Road Emergency Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$59,016.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	11	0	\$0.00	7	\$866,751.11	\$1,350,000.00
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	0	13	\$4,133,429.46	3	\$832,226.73	\$0.00
	Yard Truck Replacement	0	2	\$310,161.42	2	\$310,161.42	\$0.00
	Commercial Replacement	13	39	\$85,913.64	39	\$85,913.64	\$9,475.54

<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	Residential New Purchase	132	32	\$1,524.75	32	\$1,524.75	\$1,524.75
	Residential Replacement	82	27	\$7,588.46	27	\$7,588.46	\$7,838.46
<b>Light Duty</b>	Charge Up EV Charger – Private	1	2	\$70,000.00	2	\$70,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up EV Charger – Public	17	1	\$6,000.00	1	\$6,000.00	\$40,000.00
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	994	946	\$2,786,000.00	946	\$2,786,000.00	\$2,523,000.00
	EFMP EV Charger – Residential	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	EFMP Replacement	0	199	\$1,800,500.00	199	\$1,800,500.00	\$788,500.00
	TITU Admin/Events	8	8	\$132,483.42	8	\$132,483.42	\$134,919.58
	TITU Payroll	10	15	\$333,227.94	15	\$333,227.94	\$333,227.94
	TITU Repairs	191	185	\$941,921.79	185	\$941,921.79	\$868,750.85
<b>Public Benefit</b>	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	22	26	\$492,393.35	22	\$416,166.68	\$471,740.08
	Alternative Fuel Training	0	1	\$8,570.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Clean Air Centers – Portable Devices	6	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Special Projects</b>	Raisin Tray Rebate	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,144.46
<b>VW NOx Mitigation</b>	Replacement School Bus	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$399,999.29	\$0.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	1	\$160,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	4	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,277</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>\$41,136,996.40</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>\$35,101,576.46</b>	<b>\$23,325,771.82</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
897	667	571	2,135

Smoking Vehicles	4
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## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***

9:00 AM, May 18

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***

10:00 AM, Jun. 6

**Environmental Justice Advisory Group**

5:30 PM, Jun. 22

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