

News Release

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For Immediate Release



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Air District grant to provide cleaner vehicles for City of Arvin

The small farming community of Arvin in Kern County is the recipient of more than a half-million dollars in funding from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to switch out municipal fleet vehicles for cleaner models.

In an agreement approved by the Arvin City Council Tuesday evening, the Air District awarded Arvin \$546,700 because its geography and location in the Valley make it the most challenging place in the air basin to reach attainment for health-based federal air-pollution standards -- specifically, for ozone (smog).

Arvin is also the initial target of a new Air District program to replace gross-polluting cars with newer, cleaner models.

"This money will be especially well-spent in Arvin, where naturally existing factors such as its location create ideal conditions for ozone to form," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director. "The Valley has limited resources and finding hot-spot locations, such as Arvin, give us biggest bang for our buck."

Additionally, the District's environmental justice policy directs outreach to those communities where residents suffer disproportionately from the effects of poor air quality.

Arvin, with a largely low-income, agriculturally based population, is one such environmental justice community.

"It's definitely a good start," said Arvin Mayor Tim Tarver. "We're very much in need and we appreciate the Air District looking out for some of the worst-polluted areas in the nation. [This grant] shows that the Air District has a plan and that the ball is moving forward."

The Air District is on an aggressive path to bring the eight-county Valley air basin into attainment for ozone standards years ahead of federal mandates. Vehicles are a major source of ozone precursors.

In Arvin, the District funds will be used to purchase six hybrid police vehicles; one street sweeper; -
more-

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and one front-end loader. All the vehicles are significantly cleaner than the vehicles they are replacing.

Additionally, the District has identified dozens of private vehicles in Arvin as candidates for retirement through its new Gross Polluter Vehicle Retirement program. The program offers residents the opportunity to trade in their old cars for newer, cleaner vehicles.

The District anticipates ultimately retiring 600 vehicles Valleywide, including at least 41 identified in the first round of mailings in Arvin.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/> or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.