

## District receives grants for clean-air projects

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TEHACHAPI -- The Kern County Air Pollution Control District board of directors has awarded nearly half a million dollars in grants for clean-air projects.

Every year the state releases money to the district collected from vehicle registration fees. This year that amounted to \$492,816.

Much like last year, many of this year's 12 projects are to replace higher-polluting vehicles with cleaner hybrid vehicles. There also were several paving projects that fit the district's funding criteria by eliminating dust and the release of other particulates.

The district oversees air quality issues in eastern Kern County.

In the past, the district has funded paving projects for private businesses, but Thursday, the board decided that future grant applications for paving projects or other road improvements will be accepted only if the paved area or road will be open to the public.

"The fees come from the public so the public should benefit from the project," Air Pollution Control Officer Tom Paxson said.

This year the district will fund the following projects:

- \* \$8,091 to the city of Ridgecrest to pave two traffic lanes and two parking lanes on Reeves Avenue between Norma and Sierra View streets. The project includes installing curbs, gutters and sidewalks along the 450-foot stretch.
- \* \$22,637 to the city of Ridgecrest for similar improvements as above to the quarter-mile stretch of Graaf Avenue between Norma and Wayne streets.
- \* \$37,385 to the city of Ridgecrest for similar improvements to a half-mile of South Mahan Street between Upjohn and Ridgecrest boulevards.
- \* \$57,000 to Piute Springs Ranches Owners Association Inc. to improve 15.7 miles of dirt roads.
- \* \$63,874 to Women's Center-High Desert Inc. to replace 11 older vehicles with three Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles that will be used by three agencies to transport clients.
- \* \$50,000 to Mountain Valley Association at Mountain Valley Estate for road improvements.
- \* \$60,613 to the Lake Isabella Chamber of Commerce to pave sections of Meyers Canyon near Bodfish Canyon Road.
- \* \$25,343 to Golden Hills Community Service District to replace two older vehicles with two Ford Ranger electric, zero-emissions pickups.
- \* \$42,582 to Kern County Supervisor Jon McQuiston to replace two older vehicles driven by the Kern County Sheriff's Citizen's Service Unit in Kern River Valley with two Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles.
- \* \$21,291 to McQuiston to replace an older vehicle driven by the Citizen's Service Unit in Indian Wells Valley with a hybrid Toyota Prius.
- \* \$50,000 to California City for asphalt rejuvenating equipment.
- \* \$54,000 to Ridgecrest Sanitation to pave 94,861 square feet of trash truck parking lot.