

News Release

For immediate release

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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Truckers turn out for heavy-duty diesel grants *Demand overwhelms latest round of Prop 1B funding*

The Air District is reviewing more than 2,800 applications received and preparing to distribute \$60 million in the latest round of heavy-duty diesel truck funding, which will replace polluting trucks with cleaner vehicles.

“The fact that we are inundated with requests illustrates how sorely this program is needed, and how critical additional funding is to meet that need,” said Samir Sheikh, the District’s director of Strategies and Incentives.

The most recent round of state Proposition 1B funding opened in March and was expanded to include Class 7 as well as Class 8 vehicles. Eligible truck owners could receive up to \$60,000 to upgrade their heavy-duty diesel trucks.

Diesel emissions are a significant factor in the Valley’s struggle to meet health-based, clean-air standards. The state’s two major goods-movement corridors – Highway 99 and Interstate 5 – bisect the air basin. Since 2008, more than \$100 million has been made available to the Air District for the program.

The District conducted workshops in each of its three regions of during April and offered bilingual assistance in the application process.

“This grant program is critical to our progress toward cleaner air and continued improvement in the Valley’s health,” Sheikh said.

In addition to the Proposition 1B funding, the District currently has funding available for truck replacements under two first-come-first-served grant programs targeted at small- to medium-sized Valley fleets.

The heavy-duty diesel program is just one part of an extensive grants and incentives department at the District. For more information about the Air District or the many grant programs available, visit www.valleyair.org or call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.