

Valley Air District taking applications for cleaner-truck loans

Stockton Record, Wednesday, March 19, 2014

The Valley Air District is accepting applications from owners of heavy-duty trucks that haul waste to finance up to \$50,000 toward the cost of new waste-transfer vehicles operating within the San Joaquin Valley.

People wanting help in replacing older trucks that pollute more have until May 19 to apply for the funds that will help them purchase new, cleaner and more efficient trucks.

Solid-waste transportation companies and owners/operators who haul from waste transfer stations to landfills and waste facilities within the district boundaries are eligible to apply.

Funding priority will be given to trucks that travel exclusively within the Valley. The replacement trucks will be 90 percent cleaner, which will help the Valley meet critical air-quality goals.

To be eligible, trucks to be replaced must:

- * Be in compliance with all applicable state regulations
- * Currently be in operation
- * Have a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more
- * Be equipped with a diesel engine from the 1996-2003 model years.

To obtain an application or get more information, go to valleyair.org/grants/wastehaulers.htm or call (559) 230-5800.

Air district announces \$1.9M for waste trucks

Staff reports

The Business Journal, Tuesday, March 18, 2014

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has made \$1.9 million available to help replace high-polluting waste transfer vehicles operating in the region.

Owners of heavy-duty trucks have until May 19 to apply for the funds so they can be reimbursed up to \$50,000 for the cost of each new vehicle.

To be eligible for the program, trucks must weigh 26,001 pounds or greater and be equipped with a 1996 to 2003 model year diesel engine.

Current trucks must also operate at least 75 percent of the time within California and be engaged in the transport of solid waste from a waste transfer facility or to a landfill.

Priority will be given to trucks that travel exclusively within the eight-county San Joaquin Valley region.

The replacement trucks must be powered by a 2011 or new model year engine, which will typically be 90 percent cleaner than older models.

Applications and other information can be found at www.valleyair.org/grants/wastehaulers.htm.

The pulse: Keeping tabs on health & wellness issues

By Courtenay Edelhart

Excerpt from Bakersfield Californian article, Wednesday, March 19, 2014

BETTER PLANNING TO CLEAN AIR: The American Lung Association is calling on urban planners to get people out of their cars and out onto sidewalks by changing the way they design neighborhoods.

Residential designs that wrap homes inside dense, multi-turn neighborhoods don't exactly encourage people to put on their walking shoes. People who live in such areas tend to hop in the

car and drive to schools or stores that may be a short distance as the crow flies -- but miles away by road or sidewalk.

In a new report, "Public Health at the Crossroads," the association lays out the public health benefits of "smarter, more compact and walkable development" in the San Joaquin Valley, home to some of the worst air pollution in the country.

In Kern County, in particular, the right decisions could, by 2035, save Kern about \$139 million a year in health costs, according to the report.

That's based on a future in which new growth in Kern County is 60 percent more walkable, reducing traffic and pollution.

Such a scenario would lead to 4,829 fewer asthma attacks and other respiratory problems and 759 fewer lost work days, according to the report.

"We really want to refocus the way that we're planning our communities and push people into closer proximity to their jobs, schools, shopping, daily errands and churches," said Will Barrett, the American Lung Association's policy manager.

Walkable neighborhoods not only improve air quality but reduce the incidence of chronic disease, which is a big problem for Kern, Barrett said.

In Kern County, 15.6 percent of residents have asthma, compared to 13.7 percent statewide.

Kern also exceeds the state in obesity -- 28.8 percent of county residents compared with 23.5 percent statewide.

The city of Bakersfield has several policies in place to encourage walking and biking, said Planning Director Jim Eggert.

All new developments have to have sidewalks, for instance, and the city's master plan calls for developments near existing bike and trail systems to include connections to those systems.