

San Joaquin Valley air district gets \$1 million in fed funds to replace diesel tractors

The Fresno Bee and Modesto Bee, Friday, Oct. 23, 2015

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District received \$1 million to replace 75 off-road agricultural diesel tractors, part of a federal pot of more than \$3 million awarded Thursday to California clean-air agencies.

The new tractors coming to the Valley will have Tier 4 or cleaner engines.

The money is being awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of Diesel Emission Reduction Act funding to California to reduce diesel, greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions from large polluting diesel sources, including trucks and buses.

EPA awards \$1M to reduce diesel emissions in Valley

Business Journal, Friday, Oct. 23, 2015

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$3.2 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funding to California to reduce diesel, greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions from large polluting diesel sources, such as trucks and buses.

The 2015 DERA grants included a \$1 million award to San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to replace 75 off-road agricultural diesel tractors with new tractors that have Tier 4 or cleaner engines.

“By promoting clean diesel technologies, we can improve air quality, support green jobs, and fight global climate change,” said Jared Blumenfeld, regional administrator for EPA’s Pacific Southwest Office. “Public-private partnerships like the West Coast Collaborative are leading the way on reducing harmful diesel emissions.”

The DERA program is administered by EPA’s West Coast Collaborative, a clean air partnership comprised of the Pacific Southwest and Pacific Northwest regions, which leverages public and private funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities.

Along the West Coast, public and private partners from Alaska, American Samoa, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington received \$5.4 million DERA grant funding to retrofit and replace old, polluting diesel vehicles and equipment, including school buses, trucks, agriculture and port equipment, and generators.

The California Air Resources Board received \$415,905 to retrofit 20 school buses with diesel particulate filters (DPFs) throughout California.

The funding is part of EPA’s DERA fiscal year 2015 allocation which include engine replacements, idle reduction and retrofit technologies to clean up a variety of older diesel engines.

Since 2008, the DERA program has awarded more than 700 grants across the country in 600 communities. These projects have reduced emissions from more than 60,000 engines.

To learn more about all of this year’s West Coast Collaborative DERA projects, visit: <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org>

For more information about EPA’s National Clean Diesel campaign and the awarded DERA projects nationally, visit www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

Valley schools turn to air quality data

Porterville Recorder, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015

San Joaquin Valley education administrators, the Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC) and the Valley Air District jointly urged Valley schools to take advantage of a free school-based program that provides tools for educators to protect their students’ health from the harmful effects of air pollution.

The Healthy Air Living Schools program was developed by the Air District to notify schools when air quality is not conducive to outdoor activity, and to educate their staff, students and parents about maintaining and improving the health of the Valley's students.

"Our goal is to encourage 100 percent of the schools in the San Joaquin Valley to become Healthy Air Living Schools," said Destiny Rodriguez of CCAC, the Air District's partner in administering the program throughout the Valley.

Healthy Air Living school districts are provided free tools and education to bring air quality information to school sites. Some of the components of the program are:

- Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which offers 24-hour access to real-time localized air quality information throughout the Valley via a website, email and text messages.
- Real-Time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) guidelines that provide health recommendations for outdoor exercise based on the duration of students' exposure, the intensity of their exercise and the air quality conditions.
- Anti-idling signage and materials, which remind parents and drivers of students to cut their engines when dropping off and picking up students, reducing student exposure to harmful emissions.

"Healthy Air Living Schools is a health-focused multi-faceted free program that helps schools provide an important service to their students and families," said Jaime Holt, the District's chief communications officer. "It allows them to be proactive in addressing Valley air pollution and student health."

When a school enrolls in the program, the CCAC provides materials, training and support to the school site. To enroll in Healthy Air Living Schools and request materials, contact CCAC at 272-4874, or an Air District office in Fresno (230-6000), Modesto (557-6400) or Bakersfield (392-5500).