



Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

March 2000

Harris Ranch leads the way into the future



Harris Ranch replaced 12 of its older, diesel trucks with new trucks that burn a mixture of 85% LNG and 15% diesel.

This February, Harris Ranch ushered in a new era for commercial transport in the San Joaquin Valley by dedicating the first permanent liquefied natural gas (LNG) fueling station.

The station is located on the Harris Ranch feedlot at I-5 near the town of Coalinga in Kings County. It is the first of several planned along the Interstate Clean Transportation Corridor running from Los Angeles through the San Joaquin Valley into Nevada.

During the dedication ceremony, Chairman John Harris pointed out the benefits of taking this historic step in commercial transportation, which were deciding factors in the company's decision to embrace the technology. These include comparable vehicle maintenance costs, lower per-mile fuel price, and enhanced public image.

Brian Haddix, undersecretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency, praised the chairman and the entire Harris organization for their commitment to the project and efforts in meeting an impressive timeline. "It took vision, dedication and a lot of hard work to take this from concept to reality. John Harris simply made up his mind to take his company into the future today," Haddix said.

Many of the speakers also praised the Valley Air District for providing the initial impetus that led to the implementation of the station. In 1998, the Valley Air District partially funded the new LNG trucks with a grant from the Heavy-Duty Engine Emission Reduction Incentive Program. Throughout their lifetime, these alternative-fuel trucks will eliminate a combined total of 106,035 pounds of oxides of nitrogen emissions, a principle component of smog.

The LNG station will be open for public use and was built as a result of a private-public partnership between Harris Ranch, the U. S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program, the Interstate Clean Transportation Corridor, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition.

Additional information on the Heavy-Duty Engine Emission Reduction Incentive Program is available @ www.valleyair.org or by calling (559) 230-5858.

What is our Ozone Attainment Strategy?

Ozone causes significant health and environmental problems at the earth's surface. Virtually invisible and odorless, ozone levels in the San Joaquin Valley exceed federal health standards. As a result, the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin will soon be reclassified from a *serious* to a *severe* non-attainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone.

It is important for all stakeholders involved to monitor progress in implementing these measures.

This reclassification will set 2005 as the new attainment deadline. While progress has been made in reducing emissions, recent changes proposed to the mobile emission inventory by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) indicates that significantly more needs to be done.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has the

Ozone attainment continued on page 2

GOVERNING BOARD REVIEW

Following is a summary of actions taken at the February 17 Governing Board Meeting:

- Presented a plaque commending Tim Byrd, Stanislaus County Industry and Agricultural Representative, for eight years of dedicated service to the Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Report and public comments regarding the California Air Resources Board Transit Bus rule.

The Board also approved a number of items on the consent calendar, including:

- Received and filed the list of scheduled meetings for 2000.
- Received and filed the Budget Status Report as of January 31, 2000.
- Approved and authorized the Chair to execute amendments to the agreement with Arcadis Geraghty & Miller, Inc. assigning the agreement to Arthur D. Little, Inc. to support the Heavy-Duty Program.



The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. in the District's Central office in Fresno, and via video-teleconference in the Modesto and Bakersfield offices.

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The primary authority for the regulation of mobile source tailpipe emissions and fuel standards, however, rests with the CARB and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The USEPA will soon act upon changes to diesel fuel specifications that will significantly reduce the sulfur content of diesel fuel and allow for exhaust after-treatment of heavy-duty vehicles. This will significantly reduce the nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

CARB will consider a variety of issues to lay the foundation of the State's mobile source program for the

next decade. They include changes to mobile source emissions inventory, adoption of a transit bus regulation, a review and potential revisions to the inspection and maintenance program, and changes to fuel specifications.

Funding decisions made by the Valley Transportation Planning Agencies also play an important role in reducing mobile source emissions.

It is important for all stakeholders involved in this process to monitor progress in implementing these measures to ensure they are accomplished on schedule and achieve the required emission reductions.

Tentative Two Year Rulemaking Schedule

These are the rules tentatively scheduled for adoption in the next two years, listed in chronological order:

- Rule 4623 (Storage of Organic Liquids)
- Rule 4411 (Well Cellars)
- Rule 4662 (Organic Solvent Degreasing Operations)
- Rule 4103 (Open Burning)
- Rule 4601 (Architectural Coating Operations)
- Rule 4663 (Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal)
- Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling)
- Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions)

For additional information, please contact the Valley Air District, (559) 230-5800.

Clean Air

Trivia

Did you know?

The medical costs associated with the effects of particulate matter are estimated at nearly \$4 billion each year.

Valley Companies Support Clean Air Efforts

Concerned businesses can help improve Valley air quality by becoming Spare the Air Employer Partners. Spare the Air is a voluntary, summertime effort aimed at reducing air pollution, specifically ground-level ozone. From June through September, the District will declare a Spare the Air day when pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Residents, in turn, are asked to reduce or avoid air pollution-causing activities and products for the next 24 hours.

Employer Partners participate by distributing air pollution prevention information to employees and notifying them of Spare the Air days. The District notifies its Employer Partners prior to all Spare the Air days via fax or E-mail. With this advance notice, employers can alert their employees and encourage them to take voluntary steps that help reduce and control air pollution. There is no cost to participate. All efforts are voluntary and materials are provided free of charge. To become a Spare the Air Employer Partner, please complete and return the attached sign-up form.



**HI-TEC Sports
USA, Inc.**
Co-Recipient of the
1999 Air District
Award of Distinction
for Outstanding Efforts
on Behalf of Spare the Air

HI-TEC Sports USA is a manufacturer and retailer of rugged, outdoor footwear. The Modesto-based company believes in preserving and protecting the environment for future generations. This commitment is demonstrated by the company's willingness to sponsor numerous environmentally friendly events and activities.

HI-TEC helped launch last year's Spare the Air campaign with a unique, one-day promotion that encouraged people to get out of their cars and into a *new* mode of transportation... *their feet*. Customers were offered a 10 percent discount on footwear and a free Spare the Air travel mug with purchase. HI-TEC promoted the sale in advance by mailing promotional flyers to its customers and by displaying in-store posters.

In addition to supporting the District's clean air efforts, HI-TEC has made a commitment to reduce paper waste by decreasing the number of brochures printed for the company. As an alternative, HI-TEC directs customers to its web site for product information and availability.

The Valley Air District congratulates and thanks HI-TEC Sports USA for its outstanding support of the Spare the Air program and other community-improvement efforts.



2000 Spare the Air Sign-up Form

Become an Employer Partner by completing and returning this form:

Company: _____

Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

No. Of employees: _____

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