



# Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

December 2000



## Governor Davis Announces \$9 Million in Biomass Grants

**G**overnor Gray Davis recently announced that 11 California biomass facilities will share nearly \$9 million in grants designed to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce open field burning of agricultural by products.

“Biomass fueled powerplants receive and convert agricultural vegetative residues to fuel for electric power generation,” explained District Director of Planning Robert Dowell.

Co-generation plants in the San Joaquin Valley will receive \$5.1 million of the total state allocation. Delano Energy Co. will receive \$1.6 million, \$1.2 million will be awarded to Mendota Biomass Power, Rio Bravo in Fresno will gain \$1.4 million, and \$900,000 will go to Thermal Energy Development in Tracy.

The four biomass plants in the Valley anticipate converting more than 533,000 tons of qualified agricultural residues into fuels for electric power generation thereby avoiding nearly 2,500 tons of PM-10 emissions annually, as well as avoiding almost 1,800 tons of NOx emissions annually.

“This grant will substantially reduce air pollution, specifically particulate matter, created by open field agricultural burning,” added Dowell.

In a prepared statement, Governor Davis summarized the air quality benefits of this program. “These grants will result in cleaner air for Californians and improve environmental quality,” said Davis.

For additional information, please call Hector R. Guerra, air quality planner with the Valley Air District at (559) 230-5800.



## District to Use Prius—Hybrid Cars

**B**y the end of this year, the Valley Air District will add two gas-electric hybrid vehicles, the Toyota Prius, to its fleet. These efficient vehicles utilize an ingenious combination of a four-cylinder gas engine with an electric drive system.

“Unlike other electric-only vehicles, the Prius is completely self-contained and does not require recharging,” explained Bryan Wong, accountant with the Valley Air District.

The Advanced Control System automatically sends electric or gas engine power to the wheels, depending on driving power or speed. The hybrid propulsion system can power this four-door, compact sedan to a sustainable 100 miles per hour, while reducing emissions up to 90 percent, compared to average cars today.

The vehicles also boast an estimated 52 miles per gallon on the highway and 45 miles per gallon in the city. Additional manufacturer specifications and details are available @ [www.toyota.com](http://www.toyota.com).

## GOVERNING BOARD REVIEW

The Governing Board did not meet during the month of November.



The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 9:00 AM in the District's Central office in Fresno, and via video-teleconference in the Modesto and Bakersfield offices.



## CEMS Polling System

For many years the Valley Air District has operated an automated polling system to receive data from a stationary source Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS). Recently, the District replaced its data acquisition system with new equipment.

This new system provides greater flexibility and can receive information electronically from all sources that operate CEMS equipment. The District requests, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code section 42303 and District Rule 1080 (5.1), that firms undertake steps to begin polling systems in this manner.

Affected businesses are requested to contact Greg LaFore at (661) 326-6929 by January 15, 2001 to discuss how to comply with this request.



## For A Clearer Future 2001 Calendar Now Available

The Valley Air District's 2001 calendar, *For A Clearer Future*, is now available, free-of-charge to San Joaquin Valley businesses and households. The calendar features 13 full-color, original drawings by elementary school children throughout the valley.

"Nearly 500 children entered the contest, making it our most successful year," reported Janis B. Parker, public education specialist with the Valley Air District.

The cover of the calendar, designed by Melissa Doiron, a fifth grader at Leo B. Hart Elementary in Bakersfield, features pink and blue flowers, plus green butterflies against a light blue sky.

The other artists featured each month in the calendar are:

- *January*— Matthew Adams, a fourth grader from Bakersfield;
- *February*— Rachele Dyksinsky, a third grader from Visalia;
- *March*— Sambo Chhum, a third grader from Bakersfield;
- *April*— Olivia Page, a first grader from Stockton;
- *May*— Jimmy Guzman, a second grader from Visalia;
- *June*— Katy Peoples, a fifth grader from Sanger;
- *July*— Vanessa Ramos, a sixth grader from Fresno;
- *August*— Elizabeth Ann Ulep, a first grader from Stockton;
- *September*— Daniel Eachus, a fifth grader from Fresno;
- *October*— Carey Plummer, a fourth grader from Fresno;
- *November*— Maegan Doiron, a first grader from Bakersfield; and
- *December*— Erika Page, a fourth grader from Stockton.

To order complimentary calendars, please call (559) 230-5800.



## Moving Forward on California State Assembly Bill 2283

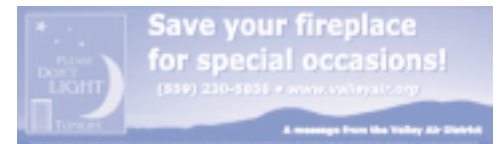
On September 11, 2000, Secretary of State Bill Jones filed California State Assembly Bill 2283. The bill provides a basis for evaluating the cost-effectiveness, safety and related matters associated with air pollution control technologies in the San Joaquin Valley and was co-authored by Assemblymembers Dean Flores (D-Fresno) and Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced).

AB 2283 also authorizes the California State Air Resources Board (ARB) to appoint an advisory committee to investigate and prepare a report with respect to emissions abatement equipment effecting primarily seasonal sources required by the Valley Air District. These seasonal sources include steam generators, boilers, process heaters, furnaces and dehydrators that are subject to Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT). The investigation required will only include oxides of nitrogen (NOx) sources.

The ARB will appoint an advisory committee to assist the state board and provide advice regarding the investigation conducted. The committee will include representatives from the Valley Air District; environmental organizations; stationary source related organizations such as the industry associations and councils. Also, seasonal stationary source related organizations such as tomato and almond processors; agricultural interests, and possibly a representative from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“It was suggested that the advisory committee include members of the public to ensure a broad range of input and assistance towards the goal of maintaining clean air,” said Ed Yates, senior vice president with California League of Food Processors.

The passage of AB 2283 was made possible through a cooperative effort of the public, businesses and government working together. Further details on this matter will be highlighted in future issues of *Valley Air News*.



## *Please Don't Light Tonight* Billboards Up

This year, the Valley Air District is using billboards to augment the *Please Don't Light Tonight* program and campaign, which is currently in effect. A dark, indigo sky with a deep, orange sunset has a white caption that asks “Save your fireplace for special occasions.”

Billboards in English and Spanish are on display throughout the Valley for the next two months. The Spanish version reads “Si las chimenea apagamos, más saludables estamos,” which translates to “If we put out the fire, we’ll be healthier.”

The Valley Air District reminds all residents that when they light, to please do it right!

For cleaner burning tips, call (559) 230-5800 or visit our web page @ [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).