“Mission Possible: Charting the Forecast for Success,” the Air District’s Dec. 6 symposium, brought more than 200 individuals together to share insights, identify solutions, and create opportunities to collaborate in meeting our Valley’s air-quality standards.

Governing Board Chair Mike Maggard welcomed participants to the one-day event at the Doubletree Hotel in Bakersfield. Board member and Kern County Supervisor Barbara Patrick, who is retiring at the end of the year, was recognized for her contributions to the District and her service as member of the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The program featured an opening address on health-based standards by Barbara Weller, Ph.D., manager of CARB’s Population Studies Section. Their study on the health and economic benefits of attaining healthful air in the Valley was presented by Jane V. Hall, Ph.D., and Victor Brajer, Ph.D., both of California State University, Fullerton, and Frederick Lurmann of Sonoma Technologies, Inc. District staff also gave an update on meeting the eight-hour ozone standard.

The keynote lunch address by CARB Chair Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., presented an overview of the state’s plans to help reduce emissions. Panel discussions during the afternoon focused on “green contracting,” alternative compliance and bringing much-needed money into the Valley to combat air problems.

Sponsors helped fund the symposium and provided more than two dozen community members and non-profit agency staff with scholarships to attend the event. A vendor court also was featured as part of the symposium.

Event sponsors included: Central Valley Air Quality Coalition; Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Western States Petroleum Association; Agriculture Improving Resources (AIR); Cleaire Advanced Emission Controls; Cummins West; Operation Clean Air; Valley CAN; Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley and Southern California Gas Co., A Sempra Energy Utility.

The 2007 Clean Air Kids calendar is now available to the public, free of charge.

The annual calendar, produced by the Valley Air District, features original art from children throughout the eight-county air basin. The young artists provide their perspectives and illustrate their ideas on cleaner air for all Valley residents. The clean-air message for each month is presented in both English and Spanish.

The educational wall calendar is distributed free to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches, civic organizations, non-political groups and individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. The calendars can be picked up at the nearest regional office: in Fresno at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.; in Bakersfield at 2700 M St., Ste. 275; and in Modesto at 4800 Enterprise Way.

Also available for 2007 is the Air District’s Hmong calendar. The calendar includes clean-air messages in the Hmong language as part of the District’s Hmong outreach program. This calendar is also free to organizations and individuals serving the Hmong community in the San Joaquin Valley. To request the 2007 Hmong calendar call 209-557-6472 or email: anthony.presto@valleyair.org.