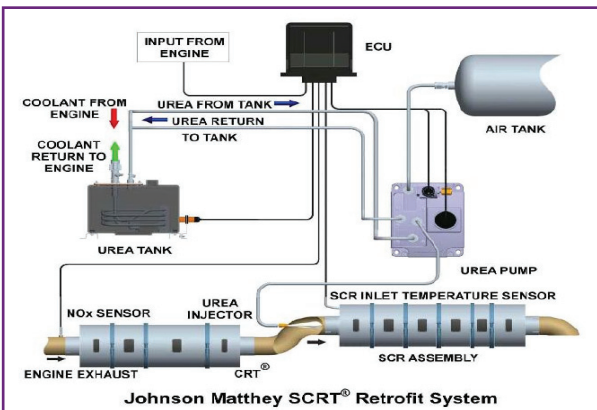


VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
June 2010

Air District offers grants for new emission reduction technology



District looks to new technologies to reduce pollution.

As a part of the new Technology Advancement Program, the Valley Air District is seeking proposals for projects that demonstrate innovative, creative, emission-reduction technologies.

Available funding totals \$900,000 for four to seven awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. The District is seeking technology demonstrations in the areas of renewable energy, waste to energy and mobile sources. Funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The request for proposals opened Thursday, June 3, 2010, and the deadline for submissions is Friday, July 9, 2010 at 5 pm. Complete information, guidelines and forms are available at the Technology Advancement Program web page at www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/TAP/tap_idx.htm, or by going to www.valleyair.org and selecting the Technology Advancement Program icon. Proposals must be submitted to the District's Fresno office in hard copy. The address is 1990 E. Gettysburg, 93726.

APCO, said incentive funding to help replace dirty engines and other PM emission sources are becoming more important in the District's efforts to meet new standards. "In the past year, the District awarded more than \$40 million in voluntary incentive funding for such things as heavy-duty truck replacements. Mobile sources, including trucks and passenger vehicles, account for 80 percent of emissions – 40 percent of those are attributed to heavy-duty trucks."

Conference co-sponsors included PG&E, UCSF-Fresno, Dairy Cares, Western States Petroleum Assn, Central Valley Health Policy Institute, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, CSUF, UC Davis and UC Merced. Presentations and video of the conference will be available by June 30 at www.valleyair.org.

Science & policy of particle pollution takes center stage at conference

Researchers present new study data on PM sources, health effects & controls

The Air District's two-day science and health conference on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in the Valley brought together more than 150 attendees and two dozen of the nation's most respected researchers and specialists on a variety of timely topics.

The conference was held June 9-10 in Fresno to shed light on the latest PM research and how that science will shape new policy. Researchers presented findings on vital new studies on Valley-specific PM causes and health effects, especially among children and other vulnerable populations.

Ning Li, assistant researcher at UCLA, said that the prevalence of childhood asthma is increasing and that symptoms such as wheezing are made worse by exposure to toxins found in diesel exhaust, a major source of PM 2.5. "Because these harmful particles are so small, they can be taken up by the cells," Dr. Li said.



Other Valley PM sources include chemicals in smoke, wind-blown dust and ammonium nitrate formed from agricultural and vehicular emissions.

Kent Pinkerton, professor of pediatrics at UC Davis, said that more than 22 million Americans suffer from asthma and Fresno has the highest asthma incidence in the state. Cardiovascular disease and respiratory problems such as bronchitis and emphysema also increase with PM exposure.

Fresno allergist Dr. Richard DeMera said many of his patients suffer from allergies that are due to triggers such as pollen, trees, weeds and pets rather than air pollution. He recommended reducing indoor exposure to allergens as the most effective control measure.



Matt Lakin of the EPA reported that stricter federal health standards for eight- and 24-hour exposure to PM_{2.5} are expected in the coming year. Air basins throughout the nation are required to submit plans to meet these standards. The eight-county Valley Air District is in attainment for PM₁₀ but has been unable to meet the current standard for PM_{2.5} due to the Valley's low carrying capacity for pollution.

Dr. Lakin said that results from a nine metro area study conducted in support of the new standards show that in Fresno County alone, 279 deaths per year are attributed to PM pollution (5 percent of all deaths) and the annual economic impact of PM pollution is estimated at \$3 billion.

In a policy discussion at the end of the conference, Seyed Sadredin, Air District APCO, said incentive funding to help replace dirty engines and other PM emission sources are becoming more important in the District's efforts to meet new standards. "In the past year, the District awarded more than \$40 million in voluntary incentive funding for such things as heavy-duty truck replacements. Mobile sources, including trucks and passenger vehicles, account for 80 percent of emissions – 40 percent of those are attributed to heavy-duty trucks."