District grants help UPS go electric

United Parcel Service (UPS) recently unveiled its new fleet of electric vehicles to replace its old, diesel-powered delivery trucks and help clean the Valley’s air.

The Valley Air District used funding from DMV fees to provide UPS with $1.4 million toward the purchase of 50 all-electric delivery vehicles being deployed in Ceres, Fresno and Bakersfield.

The new trucks, manufactured by Electric Vehicles International (EVI) in Stockton, are zero-emission vehicles, expected to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) by 16 tons per year and particulate matter by 800 pounds per year.

NOx is a key component in the formation of ozone pollution, for which the Valley fails to meet federal clean-air standards.

EVI also estimates that UPS will reduce fuel consumption by 160,000 gallons per year.

The diesel-powered vehicles being replaced are required to be destroyed as part of the agreement for receiving the funding. Destruction of the polluting equipment being replaced ensures truly tangible air pollution reductions in the San Joaquin Valley.

City Selection Committee recruits new Governing Board member

In January, a committee made up of councilmembers from each Valley city selected Gustine Mayor Dennis Brazil to fill the small-city seat on the Air District’s Governing Board.

Mayor Brazil brings a well-rounded abundance of knowledge and experience to the board as a business owner of a fitness center in Gustine; operations manager for Kagome Inc. Mayor Brazil also has a background in agriculture; and is a member of Gustine’s Downtown Revitalization Committee, Fourth of July Park Committee, State Route 140 Transportation Enhancement Plan Committee and the Merced Area Crime Stoppers Board.

The roster for the Valley Air District’s 2013 Governing Board is:

Chair, Councilmember Skip Barwick – City of Tulare
Vice Chair, Supervisor Hub Walsh – Merced County
Councilmember Oliver Baines – City of Fresno
Supervisor Tony Barba – Kings County
Councilmember Sally Bomprezzi – City of Madera
Mayor Dennis Brazil – City of Gustine
Supervisor Judy Case – Fresno County
Supervisor David Couch – Kern County
Supervisor Bob Elliott – San Joaquin County
Councilmember Harold Hanson – City of Bakersfield
Supervisor William O’Brien – Stanislaus County
Supervisor Tom Wheeler – Madera County
Supervisor Steven Worthley – Tulare County

Appointed by the Governor:
Alexander C. Sherriffs, M.D. – Adventist Health Community Care

Mark your calendar for spring, summer Events

March 9 - Tune In & Tune Up - Chowchilla, 9am-3pm, FREE car emissions test and diagnostic inspections with grants for repairs for those who fail. For more information contact Valley Clean Air Now at 1-800-806-2004.


March 23 - Tune In & Tune Up - Fresno, 9am to 3pm.


April 6 - Tune In & Tune Up - Stockton, 9am-3pm.

April 11 - Earth Day at Modesto Junior College. 10am-2pm.

April 20 - Annual Earth Day Run for the Reef, beginning at River Park Shopping Center, Fresno, 7am. For more info call 559-490-FISH.

April 20 - Visalia, Earth Day Celebration, 8am-12pm, St. Johns Riverwalk Park.

April 20 - Earth Day Fresno, Courthouse Park, 11am-4pm.

April 20 - Modesto’s Earth Day in Park Festival, 10am-4pm, Graceada Park.

April 27 - Riverbank, Beyond Earth Day, Jacob Myers Park, 10am-4pm.

May 4 - Tune In & Tune Up, Bakersfield, 9am-3pm.

May 10 - Bike to Work Day, Reception for cyclists, Modesto, 1010 Tenth St., 6:30-8:30am.

May 16 - Bike to Work Day, Visalia. Event at Downtown Farmer’s Market from 5-8pm.

May 17 - Bike to Work Day in Bakersfield and Merced.

May 18 - Tune in & Tune Up, Merced, 9am-3pm.

May 24 - Earth Day Celebration - Golden Valley Health Center, Merced, 847 West Childs Ave., 10am-3pm.

July 13 - Sixth Annual Asthma Conference, Stanislaus County Asthma Coalition, free, Sutter Gould Medical Foundation Conference Center, 1700 McHenry Ave., 8am-12pm.