District welcomes newest Governing Board members

At the January 19 Governing Board meeting, the District and other board members welcomed Stanislaus County Supervisor Kristin Olsen and Merced County Supervisor, Lloyd Pareira to the board.

Former California Assembly member, Kristin Olsen took the seat of three-term Stanislaus County Supervisor, William O’Brien, who announced his retirement in March of 2016.

Former Merced County Supervisor Hub Walsh was replaced on the board by another new supervisor, Lloyd Pareira.

The District is excited to have these individuals on board and looks forward to benefiting from their leadership and guidance for years to come. During their first meeting, they already demonstrated knowledge and a great deal of interest in air quality issues and quality of life for residents throughout the Valley.

Grant helps farmers replace tractors

The Agricultural Tractor Replacement Program provides incentive funds for the replacement of in-use, off-road mobile equipment that is engaged in agricultural operations as defined by the California Air Resources Board.

Funds are provided on a first come, first serve basis and applicants must obtain approval and have a signed, executed contract from the Valley Air District prior to the purchase of new equipment. Any equipment purchased prior to contract execution is ineligible as this is not a rebate program.

Funding amounts are based on a dollar per horsepower scale and may provide as much as 60% of the cost of replacing an older, high-polluting tractor with new, cleaner equipment.

Valley farmers are encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity for financial assistance and work alongside the District in cleaning the Valley’s air.

“Grant funds such as these recognize the hard work and sacrifice being made by Valley farmers, businesses and residents to expedite emission reductions in the San Joaquin Valley,” stated Seyed Sadredin, Air Pollution Control Officer and Executive Director of the Valley Air District.

For more information, visit: www.valleyair.org/grants/tractorreplacement.htm