District receives $88 million from CARB

During the December 2017 Governing Board meeting, the District made improving public health in disadvantaged communities a continued priority, while also striving to achieve its emissions attainment goals.

The District accepted $88,400,000 in Cap and Trade funds from the California Air Resources Board, and a major portion of the funds will be used for projects located in or benefiting the Valley's disadvantaged and low-income communities. The funds also will support the District's implementation of AB 617, which requires the state ARB and air districts to come up with additional plans to report, monitor and reduce emissions.

The bulk of the funds, $80 million, will support programs that reduce emissions while also helping the Valley's low-income communities. One example is the District’s Heavy-Duty Engine Program, which includes Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program projects that provide incentive funds to help farmers, truck drivers and businesses that have heavy-duty trucks, heavy-duty diesel equipment and school buses to cover costs associated with buying products with engines that utilize reduced emission technology.

The remaining $8.4 million will be used by the District to comply with AB 617. The new mandates include additional emissions reporting, more air pollution monitoring, establishing new air monitoring shelters, extra emissions reduction plan requirements and measures, and identifying high priority locations for implementing community-level monitoring.

As the District moves forward to utilize the funds by the state Air Resources Board to improve public health in the Valley's disadvantaged communities, the District will be reaching out to Valley residents and businesses for input on project ideas and community suggestions through surveys and community meetings. All Valley residents and businesses are encouraged to participate.

Tune In & Tune Up 2018 schedule announced

If you have been anxious to learn when the next Tune In & Tune Up event will be, no need to wait any longer. The schedule for the first six months of 2018 is now available.

- January 27, 2018 – Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield
- February 10, 2018 – Madera District Fairgrounds, Madera
- March 10, 2018 – Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced
- March 17, 2018 – Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno
- April 7, 2018 – San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton
- April 28, 2018 – West Hills College, Lemoore
- May 19, 2018 – Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock
- June 2, 2018 – Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield

To qualify to receive a free car emissions test, you have to own the car and be a resident of the San Joaquin Valley. If your vehicle fails the emissions test, you may be eligible for a repair voucher worth up to $500 in repairs at participating smog shops.

For more info on Tune In & Tune Up events, visit: www.valleyair.org/tuneintuneup.