New incentive program focuses on old emergency vehicles

With emergency vehicles exempt from state regulations and no mandate to use cleaner fleets, many old ladder trucks, pumper trucks and others with diesel engines are still on the road producing significant pollution.

The Valley Air District is starting a new incentive program to help Valley fire agencies replace their aging, high-polluting emergency vehicles with newer, cleaner and more efficient ones.

The $5,000,000 grant program is open to cities, counties, fire protection districts and other public entities on a first-come, first-served basis. Vehicles eligible for the grant are diesel-powered emergency vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 14,001 pounds or more, such as pumper trucks, ladder trucks, water tenders, and on a case-by-case basis other fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

The amount of funding per new vehicle will vary, depending upon the specific vehicles miles traveled, fuel usage and age of the old vehicle. Incentive amounts will be provided up to 90% of the eligible project costs and capped at the Carl Moyer Program maximum cost-effectiveness threshold, which is currently $30,000 per ton of emissions reduced.

Participants must commit to using the new replacement vehicles for a minimum of five years, report to the District on vehicle usage and other relevant activity data, and permit the District to inspect and document existing and new replacement vehicles before reimbursement.

For more information, contact incentive program staff at (559) 230-5800.

Tulare County Supervisor joins Governing Board

The District and its Governing Board members welcomed Tulare County Supervisor Kuyler Crocker during the January meeting. Crocker, who represents the northeastern portion of Tulare County and was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016, replaced retired Supervisor Steven Worthley. The second-longest serving Board member, Worthley was integral in shaping and leading the District’s efforts in advocating for a healthier Valley for the past 15 years. The District is excited to have Crocker on board and looks forward to benefiting from his participation.

AB 617 Steering Committee meeting reminder

Steering Committee meetings for South Central Fresno and the City of Shafter are ongoing and occur monthly. Residents and other interested individuals or businesses are welcome to attend the meetings.

The steering committees meet:
- South Central Fresno - every second Wednesday of the month
- City of Shafter - every second Monday of the month

For more information, visit valleyair.org/community.