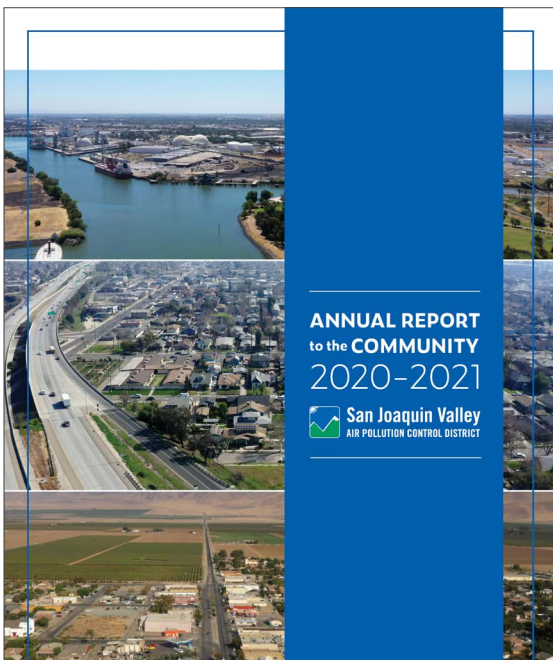


VALLEY AIR NEWS

September 2021

Annual Report to the Community now available

The District's Annual Report to the Community is now available at www.valleyair.org. The report provides Valley residents with a detailed account of the District's operations in the preceding year. In contrast to the many detailed, highly scientific and technical reports that are regularly published by the District, this report outlines the District's goals, objectives, legal obligations and actions in a more concise and easy-to-follow format for the general public. Print copies may be requested at public.education@valleyair.org.



Increased funding for phase-out of open ag burning

In September, the District's Governing Board unanimously accepted \$178.2 million in new State funding directed to the San Joaquin Valley to launch an expanded grant program to assist farmers in phasing-out the open burning of woody waste through the use of new, cleaner practices, including the chipping of material for incorporation into the soil and other cleaner alternatives.

After nearly two decades of significant work to reduce agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley, the District and the California Air Resources Board have approved a strategy that will result in a near complete phase-out of all Valley agricultural burning by January 1, 2025. To meet this deadline, the District has worked closely with agricultural stakeholders and leaders to bring new state funding to the Valley to help ensure this phase-out is successful.

With this new funding, the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Grant program will be enhanced to provide additional funding for small agricultural operations of less than 100 total acres; expand funding options for vineyard removals; expand options for chipped material disposal through beneficial reuse alternatives such as mulch or compost; and provide an option to fund the purchase of new chipping equipment to be used within the Valley, amongst other program enhancements.

The District launched the program on September 1, 2021, and encourages interested agricultural operators in the San Joaquin Valley to learn more about this funding and other available grants by visiting www.valleyair.org/grants or by calling program staff at 559-230-5800.

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