

2021 Legislative Platform



2021 GOVERNING BOARD ROSTER

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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JURISDICTIONAL ROLES

The **San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District)** is the local agency in charge of cleaning the air within the eight county region of the San Joaquin Valley (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and the valley portion of Kern County). The District has the primary authority in regulating stationary sources of pollution, such as factories, businesses, and industries. Although state and federal laws preempt the District from setting new tailpipe standards for mobile sources of emissions, the District implements indirect source regulations and incentive-based programs to reduce emissions from on-road and off-road sources of air pollution. The primary authority to regulate emissions from mobile sources of air pollution, such as cars and trucks, lies with the state and federal government. In achieving our clean air goals, the District partners with a number of other governmental agencies:

- The **federal government**, primarily through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets health-based standards for air pollutants. EPA also controls emissions from trucks, trains, planes and boats and oversees state and local actions to improve air quality.
- The **state government**, through the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Bureau of Automotive Repair, develops programs to reduce pollution from vehicles and consumer products. The state also oversees the actions of local air districts and city and county agencies.
- **County and city governments** are responsible for land-use planning to address issues such as “urban sprawl” as well as transportation and mass transit planning.

Progress in cleaning our air is often measured in relation to the health-based standards established by the federal government. The state of California also establishes ambient air quality standards that serve as ultimate goals in achieving clean air.

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following priorities will provide policy guidance and recognize the unique needs of the Valley in the coming year:

- 1. (State/Federal) Funding for Clean Air Projects:** Provide new and continued funding for investment in projects that reduce air pollution in the disadvantaged communities throughout the Valley. The District's existing attainment plans already contain some of the strongest regulatory measures in the nation, and significant additional reductions in emissions will be achieved from new measures in the upcoming plans for the latest federal standards. However, funding is necessary for reductions to expedite public health benefits and attainment of the federal standards through incentive-based measures. Funding for incentive-based measures is also needed for reducing mobile source emissions since federal law preempts the District from imposing tailpipe emissions standards. The District will pursue all available funding sources including but not limited to Moyer, Cap and Trade, and AB 118 at the state level, and DERA, Targeted Airshed, and Farm Bill EQIP at the federal level.
- 2. (State/Federal) Ensure the State Secures and Allocates Adequate Incentive Funds to Meet the State's Commitment in the Valley's PM2.5 Attainment Plan:** The District's recently adopted PM2.5 plan includes aggressive incentive-based control measure commitments by CARB to accelerate the deployment of new clean vehicles, equipment, and technologies across a variety of sectors that will require \$5 billion in new incentive funding investment from the state. The District will work with the state to advocate for the incentive funding necessary to meet CARB's emission reduction commitments in the adopted Plan.
- 3. (State) Cap and Trade Funding for Valley Clean Air Projects:** The Cap and Trade program implemented by ARB sets up a mechanism by which affected sources can procure allowances or offsets to meet specified and declining caps on their greenhouse gas emissions. To mitigate localized air quality impact and provide meaningful public health benefit to disproportionately impacted communities, a significant portion of Cap and Trade revenues must be spent on projects located within, and benefiting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities. In recent years, the District has successfully advocated for significant funding directed towards the Valley through the FARMER (to replace agricultural equipment), Community Air Protection, and zero/near-zero technology demonstration programs. In determining what communities are disadvantaged, the state must identify communities that face significant environmental challenges as well as economic challenges. The District will continue to advocate for receiving its fair share of Cap and Trade revenues to assist in meeting the Valley's air quality objectives.

4. **(State) AB 617 Implementation:** The air quality challenges that communities in the San Joaquin Valley face are unmatched by any other region in the nation. Despite decades of progress and significant reductions in air pollution, the San Joaquin Valley, due to its unique geography, topography, and meteorology, continues to face daunting challenges in meeting the latest federal health-based air quality standards. AB 617, if implemented properly, is expected to bring additional clean air resources and strategies to Valley communities that are burdened by socioeconomic disadvantages and air pollution despite significant emissions reductions that have already been achieved regionally. In order to effectively implement the requirements of AB 617, the District will advocate for the following:
 - A. The State should provide adequate resources to fund the emissions inventory, regulatory, administrative, air monitoring, and community outreach activities necessary to effectively implement AB 617 requirements.
 - B. State funding for AB 617 emission reduction projects should be based upon need with areas containing identified AB 617 communities and other disadvantaged communities, and disproportionate air quality impacts prioritized for funding.
5. **(State/Federal) Disadvantaged Community Policies:** The San Joaquin Valley is home to a number of disadvantaged communities that deserve care and attention. The District will adhere to the following principles in pursuing efforts to identify and address the needs of these communities.
 - A. The District will support measures that improve quality of life and economic welfare. In identifying communities of need, both socioeconomic and environmental impacts should be considered. The District supports CalEPA's California Communities Environmental Health Screening tool (CalEnviroScreen) as the appropriate tool for identifying disadvantaged communities.
 - B. The District will support efforts to target additional state and federal resources to mitigate issues faced in disadvantaged communities.
 - C. The District will oppose measures that dilute local control by diverting local revenues or the authority over the expenditure of local resources to the state or federal government. Reduced local control will weaken local enforcement programs. Local agencies are better suited to efficiently and effectively identify and address community needs.
6. **(Federal) Work with Administrative Branch Including EPA to Advance Streamlined and Efficient Implementation of the Clean Air Act Mandates:** Under the federal Clean Air Act, the District is required to

meet stringent mandates that are increasingly difficult to meet given the Valley's unique air quality challenges, mature and stringent air quality program, and ever-tightening federal health-based air quality standards. Satisfying these mandates is of paramount importance to the Valley given the potential public health and economic consequences under the Clean Air Act, including the loss of federal transportation funding, permitting barriers for new and expanding businesses, and loss of local control. The District will work with the incoming EPA administration to build an effective working relationship to make sure that Clean Air Act provisions are applied reasonably and in accordance with Congress' original intent. Additionally, the District will work to ensure that the administration's focus is on working with state and local agencies to develop programs that work for their specific situations and provides opportunities to pursue administrative solutions to solve some of the issues presented by antiquated provisions of the Act.

- 7. (Federal) National Standards for On-Road Heavy-Duty Trucks, Locomotives, and other Mobile Sources under Federal Jurisdiction:** Despite achieving significant emissions reductions through decades of implementing the most stringent stationary and mobile regulatory control program in the nation, nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions, the primary precursor for both ozone and fine particulates (PM_{2.5}) in the San Joaquin Valley, must be reduced by an additional 90% in order to attain the latest federal ozone and PM_{2.5} standards that now encroach on natural background levels. The District has jurisdiction over stationary and area sources, which make up less than 15% of the total NO_x emissions inventory. With over 85% of the Valley's remaining ozone and PM_{2.5} precursor emissions now coming from mobile sources under federal jurisdiction, additional reductions from heavy-duty trucks and other mobile sources are needed for the Valley to reach federal air quality standards. Your Board has previously submitted petitions to the federal government requesting that they reduce their fair share of emissions in an equitable manner through more stringent national standards for heavy duty trucks and locomotives, and the District will continue to seek additional opportunities for achieving additional mobile source reductions under federal and state jurisdiction as necessary to meet federal air quality standards.
- 8. (State) Truck Emissions Verification:** Trucks are the largest source of NO_x emissions in the San Joaquin Valley, and the District has long supported the development of a reasonable program that helps ensure that emissions controls are properly maintained and are not tampered with. Last year, SB 210 (Leyva) was signed into law requiring that the California Air Resources Board develop a truck inspection and repair program. As this program moves forward with implementation, the District supports a smog check program that can rely on onboard diagnostic technology and verifiable self-reporting to minimize the high

costs associated with a more traditional smog-check program. Furthermore, the program must contain necessary flexibility to accommodate future technology advancements that can provide for efficient and reliable emissions verification.

- 9. (State/Federal) Support Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures that Provide for Local Criteria and Toxic Air Emissions Benefits:** Many state/federal climate change measures provide for co-benefits in reducing both GHG and criteria pollutant emissions. Consistent with the District's adopted Climate Change Action Plan, the District will support reasonable measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as toxic and criteria pollutants. The District will oppose measures that are detrimental to public health and inconsistent with the District's air quality mission and statutory mandates by leading to increases in toxic or criteria pollutant emissions in already impacted areas.
- 10. (State) District Policy Position on The Deployment of Near-Zero and Zero Emission Technologies:** In the development of new zero emission and near-zero emission state strategies, the District will advocate for consideration and prioritization of near-term air quality and public health goals and efforts that may also serve to assist in achieving the transformational changes needed to meet long-term objectives, including:

 - A. Pursue fuel-neutral approaches for identifying technologies and other solutions based on their performance, cost-effectiveness, and ability to assist in meeting established local and state goals.
 - B. Continue to support electrification and other zero-emission technologies when they are commercially available, cost-effective, and provide the required performance and value for the specific application.
 - C. Continue to support near-zero emissions technologies when they are able to provide near-term and cost-effective emissions reductions and public health benefits.
 - D. Continue to support the development and demonstration of the next generation of transformative zero and near-zero emissions technologies.
- 11. (Federal) Support inclusion of funding for clean transportation corridors, the deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure, and the deployment of zero and near-zero emission heavy-duty vehicles in the re-authorization of the transportation bill and federal budget:** The authorization of a new federal transportation bill and budget provide opportunities for establishing new funding sources for the advancement of clean mobile source technologies under federal regulatory jurisdiction.

The District will work with stakeholders and federal partners for the inclusion of funding in support of the District's air quality goals.

- 12. (State) Support Legislation Extending the Carl Moyer Program and the District's Existing Authority for DMV Fees to Match Applicable Federally Mandated Attainment Deadlines:** Since 1998, the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program) has cost-effectively reduced smog-forming and toxic emissions. Approximately \$1 billion statewide has been allocated to date and the Program continues to provide over \$60 million in grant funding each year to clean up older polluting engines throughout California. Significant portions of the Carl Moyer Program are set to expire in 2024. Additionally, the District's current authority relating to DMV fees under California Health and Safety Code Sections 40610 through 40613 sunsets in 2024. The current sunset date was set to correspond to the District's attainment date for the latest ozone standard at the time the enabling legislation was enacted (1997). Since then EPA has adopted more restrictive standards with attainment dates ranging from 2031 through 2037. The Valley cannot reach attainment with regulatory measures alone and incentive-based measures are necessary to ensure expeditious reductions in emissions cost-effectively while investing in the local economy. Therefore, the District supports legislation extending the Carl Moyer Program and the District's DMV Fee authority to match attainment deadlines for federally mandated health standards for which incentive funding is necessary.
- 13. (State) Support Policies Designed to Provide Real-Time Accurate Air Quality Information to the Public during Wildfires and Other Air Quality Episodes:** The District has long been a leader in developing tools and policies to provide real-time accurate air quality information to the public. Ten of the largest wildfires in the state's history have occurred in the last 10 years with the seven largest occurring since 2017. These fires have significantly impacted air quality and public health for a significant portion of the state's population. In response to these conditions, a number of proposals and policies have been developed or are currently being discussed in the Legislature to require that air quality information be made available to the public. Based upon our extensive experience in providing air quality information and activity recommendations to the public, the District will support policies that are designed to provide real-time accurate air quality information to the public.
- 14. (State/Federal) Support efforts that provide for cost-effective alternatives to open burning of agricultural waste:** In 2003, state law was amended to require the District to limit open burning of agricultural material in accordance with a phased-in schedule of deadlines. In

addition to those requirements, the state law authorizes the District to postpone the burn prohibition dates for specific types of agricultural material if the District makes three specific determinations and CARB concurs. The determinations are: (1) there are no economically feasible alternatives to open-burning of the specific type of material; (2) open-burning the specific type of material will not cause or substantially contribute to a violation of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); and (3) there is no long-term federal or state funding commitment for the continued operation of biomass facilities in the Valley or the development of alternatives to burning.

Working closely with the stakeholders over the years to identify economically feasible alternatives to open burning of various agricultural materials, the District had until 2014 achieved an 80% reduction in agricultural burning. The exceptional drought conditions that the Valley experienced from 2012 to 2016 resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres of orchards, vineyards and other agricultural crops being fallowed or removed. These conditions, paired with the demise of the biomass industry in California, which had previously provided the primary alternative to agricultural burning for a significant amount of the agricultural waste generated in the Valley, has created a severe waste disposal issue. Additionally, there are currently no long-term federal or state funding commitments to support the operation of biomass facilities or development of alternatives to open agricultural burning. The combination of these factors has resulted in an increase in open burning over the past several years and threatens the District's ability to continue to maintain broad restrictions on open burning of agricultural waste into the future due to the lack of feasible alternatives capable of handling the volume of agricultural waste generated in the Valley each year. In November 2015, the District's Governing Board adopted an action plan aimed at short- and long-term measures to alleviate the effect on agricultural growers of the biomass capacity shortfall in the Valley and to identify cleaner alternatives to agricultural open burning. As a part of these efforts to identify and advance cleaner alternatives to open burning of agricultural waste, in November 2017 the District convened the Central Valley Summit on Alternatives to Open Burning of Agricultural Waste to bring together Valley growers, researchers/experts, representatives from the biomass power industry, representatives from new and developing technology vendors, and Valley stakeholders.

The District Governing Board recently approved the 2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning. That report made a number of policy recommendations to facilitate the continued phase-out of open burning of agriculture waste. The recommendations are as follows:

- A. To support the District's 2020 Report transition of remaining crop categories to newly emergent alternatives, the District requests that sustained state funding support be provided and made available to Valley growers. This funding is requested for the duration of at least the CARB concurrence period for the District's recommendations, with the expectation that over the course of the District's recommendations, alternatives are more broadly deployed, costs are reduced, and overall are more feasible with a reduced need for incentives over time.
- B. To support the District's 2020 Report recommendations and transition of remaining crop categories to newly emergent alternatives, the District will seek program enhancements and dedicated San Joaquin Valley funding through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program for whole orchard recycling and other feasible alternatives. In order for this program to be effective in assisting the transition to emerging alternatives, program changes are needed to make the program more accessible and responsive to the needs of Valley growers.
- C. To support the District's 2020 Report recommendations and transition of remaining crop categories to newly emergent alternatives, the District will advocate for additional federal funding to assist with deployment of feasible alternatives, including working closely with the USDA-NRCS to support funding programs for whole orchard recycling and other alternatives.
- D. The District recommends the following with respect to state energy policy to ensure that existing and new bioenergy production is responsive to the need for establishing viable and sustainable options for the disposal of agricultural woody materials:
 - 1. Given the high development costs associated with developing advanced bioenergy conversion projects, state incentives must be established to help defray the significant up-front costs that present barriers to startup.
 - 2. The District recommends that a new Clean Biomass Collaborative be established, in partnership with CARB, U.S. EPA, USDA-NRCS, stakeholders, and other partners, to serve as a forum to identify and overcome issues that are inhibiting the deployment of advanced bioenergy conversion projects.
 - 3. The District recommends that the state develop a plan for addressing the ongoing challenges faced by existing biomass plants that, while reduced in total capacity, still serve as a key

outlet for agricultural materials. This plan should recognize the emission reduction benefits that may be associated with the processing of agricultural materials, conflicting state energy policies that result in significant forest waste being hauled to Valley biomass facilities, and community concerns associated with the emissions from and location of these plants.

15. (State/Federal) Technology Advancement: Meeting the latest federal air quality standards will require transformative measures and broad deployment of new zero and near-zero emissions technologies. In order to further develop technology to close the gap in required emissions reductions, the District operates a Technology Advancement Program. Along with its own resources, the District is seeking state and federal assistance to advance technology in the following areas.

- A. Mobile sources projects that demonstrate zero- or near-zero-emissions solutions to mobile source categories with emphasis on goods and people movement, off-road equipment, or agricultural equipment.
- B. Renewable energy projects that focus on overcoming the barriers that prevent the use or adoption of zero-emission renewable energy sources or reduce emissions from renewable energy systems to make them cleaner than comparable non-renewable alternatives.
- C. Waste solution projects that focus on waste systems or technologies that minimize or eliminate emissions from existing waste streams and processes, including waste-to-fuel and energy systems, such as ag waste gasification systems, dairy digesters and other bio-fuel and energy applications.

16. (State/Federal) Support adequate resources and policies to reduce the impact of wildfires and their attendant public health impact: Wildfires result in significant loss of life and property. Air pollution generated from wildfires is enormous and well exceeds the total industrial and mobile source emissions in the San Joaquin Valley. These emissions result in significant adverse public health impacts in the San Joaquin Valley and in many regions throughout California. California continues to experience a record number of wildfires, and the resulting emissions causes serious public health impacts and unprecedented levels of PM2.5 and ozone in the San Joaquin Valley and other regions throughout the state. Historically clean rural areas throughout the state and in the San Joaquin Valley have experienced their worst air quality in decades.

Given the devastating public health impact that the Valley suffers from wildfires, the District supports measures that can help reduce the intensity, magnitude, and frequency of wildfires including those that

promote effective and expanded use of prescribed burns and mechanical treatment to reduce fuel build-up, including the following:

- A. Support the implementation of the Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands which includes a commitment by the federal government to match California's goal of reducing wildfire risks on 500,000 acres of forest land per year. To protect public safety and ecology, experts agree that at least one million acres of California forest and wildlands must be treated annually across jurisdictions.
- B. Air District's work with local, state, and federal land managers to provide the necessary authorizations and provide support for prescribed burning to ensure that is done with minimal impacts on air quality and public health. This work has traditionally been funded through fees paid by the land managers who implement prescribed burn projects. To support reduced/eliminated District fees for prescribed burn projects, the District supports funding from the State and Federal government for air district work associated with supporting prescribed burn projects.
- C. Additional financial and staffing resources for public and private land managers to conduct prescribed burning as an effective means for reducing fuel supplies that lead to large and uncontrollable wildfires.
- D. When wildfires occur, fighting wildfires should be funded as other natural disasters are funded. Funding should not be diverted from forest management and fuel reduction activities to fight wildfires.
- E. Lessening or removal of contradictory environmental protection policies that prohibit the use of mechanized methods, or prescribed burning to reduce fuels when those are the only feasible methods available.
- F. Changes in the federal policies that better incorporate air quality concerns by shifting focus to prescribed burning and employing fire management techniques that reduce air quality impact when wildfires occur.
- G. As the State moves forward with addressing public utility related wildfire risk reduction efforts (e.g., Public Safety Power Shutdowns), advocate for resources for the mitigation of related emissions impacts such as increased backup generator usage, and the development and deployment of new cleaner backup energy alternatives, such as fuel-cell microgrids.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The following general principles will provide policy guidance for legislative action:

FAIR APPLICATION OF CLEAN AIR MANDATES: The District would support the inclusion of an overriding provision in federal law to prohibit imposition of federal sanctions on local regions where their inability to attain federal standards is due to pollution from sources outside their regulatory authority. This fairness doctrine may be incorporated into federal law through various means without amending the Federal Clean Air Act.

The District has left no stone unturned in promulgating and implementing measures to reduce emissions from sources of air pollution under its regulatory authority. The District has also deployed innovative measures to reduce emissions from mobile and indirect sources of air pollution that fall outside its traditional regulatory authority with stationary sources. We have reached a point where the Valley cannot attain the health based standards established under the Federal Clean Air Act without significant reductions in emissions from mobile sources that fall under federal jurisdiction. With the newly established federal standards many other regions throughout the nation will find themselves in a similar situation.

It is unfair that under the current law, local jurisdictions will be subject to devastating federal sanctions even though failure to attain the standards is due to emissions from sources under federal jurisdiction. These federal sanctions include:

- Permitting barriers for new and expanding businesses (2:1 offset requirement)
- Loss of federal highway funds (\$2.5 billion and numerous jobs lost in the San Joaquin Valley)
- Federal takeover and loss of local control
- Expensive federal nonattainment penalties

PROPORTIONAL MOBILE AND STATIONARY SOURCE CONTROLS: To achieve emissions reductions that are adequate to attain air quality standards, it is imperative that all sources are adequately controlled according to their contribution the Valley's air quality challenges. In order to achieve this objective, the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Continue to support legislation that requires the U.S. EPA to develop and implement programs that effectively and efficiently control interstate mobile sources including, but not limited to, trains, trucks, boats, and planes. Support federal actions that will provide cleaner operating vehicles. Support legislation that requires improved emission standards for buses.

2. Support legislation that requires federal sources, including trains, trucks and ships, to contribute their “fair share” of the emission reductions required for attainment of air quality standards in the San Joaquin Valley.

MOBILE SOURCE AND TRANSPORTATION: To address issues dealing with mobile source reductions and transportation alternatives; to achieve mobile source reductions in addition to those currently approved in air attainment plans; to create market-based incentives for mobile source emissions; and to encourage and promote public transportation improvements; the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Support funding for mobile source reductions.
2. Support legislation that provides options for local air districts for pilot incentives to reduce mobile source emissions.
3. Support state and federal legislation and regulations to further promote cost-effective and clearly defined strategies associated with vehicle emission reductions and effective statewide vehicle Inspection & Maintenance programs.
4. Support legislation to assist regional transportation authorities’ efforts for multi-modal transit systems that ensure ongoing growth in ridership by promoting and encouraging maximum public use.
5. Support legislation and efforts to enhance interregional transit options that provide an alternative to driving. This should include options for the movement of both people and goods within the San Joaquin Valley and to adjacent regions.
6. Oppose legislation that restricts the District’s use of Governing Board-authorized funds for cost effective emission control projects.
7. Support legislation that simplifies Transportation Conformity compliance and synchronizes conformity related transportation planning requirements with air quality planning requirements and deadlines.
8. Support legislation that puts organizational structures in place that facilitate inter-regional and intra-regional solutions for the efficient movement of people and goods through the San Joaquin Valley utilizing a variety of transportation modes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: To have the ability to provide flexibility when dealing with businesses addressing air quality rules and regulations, and to ensure that adequate measures are available to meet air quality objectives and mandates, the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Support legislation that provides for market-based incentives that achieve equivalent reduction in air emissions in a more cost-effective fashion.
2. Support legislation that encourages the generation of mobile source emission reduction credits.

TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS: To ensure the protection of public health and to minimize exposure to significant toxic pollutants, the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Oppose legislation that results in the release of cancer-causing and other toxic emissions in quantities that pose significant risks to public health.
2. Support legislation that upholds the requirement for public notification when significant toxic pollutants are located in close proximity to a given neighborhood.
3. Support legislation that allows for the integration of state and federal air toxic mandates while protecting public health.
4. Support legislation that calls for cleaner-burning alternative fuels.
5. Support measures that result in early risk reduction without costly and unnecessary risk assessment work.

LOCAL: To fulfill the goals of the District, to maintain the ability to develop and implement control strategies to address stationary and area pollutants, and to achieve ambient air quality standards, the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Support legislation that retains the Governing Board's control over the use of emission reduction credits (ERCs) throughout the Valley.
2. Oppose legislation that usurps the District's authority to determine the cost-effectiveness of proposed District rules.
3. Oppose legislation that diminishes the District's ability to write permits that are practical and enforceable.
4. Support legislation that encourages the management of air quality on a regional basis, particularly in the Valley, and not on a statewide basis, in order to assure that local concerns are recognized.

5. Support and actively advocate increases in the District Subvention based on inflation and increased mandates.
6. Support legislation that retains local enforcement and discretionary authority for Notices to Comply/Notices of Violation (NTC/NOV fines, adjudication, etc.).
7. Support legislation that promotes the creation and use of District-operated self-audit and inspection programs. Such legislation will enhance the District's ability to offer incentive-based programs to Valley businesses in ways that do not conflict with state and federal law.
8. Oppose all legislation that transfers any part of local permitting authority to the state or federal governments. Past transfers of the District's permitting authority have proved to prolong the permitting process without any corresponding benefit to air quality.
9. Oppose legislation that limits the District's ability to regulate the installation or utilization of wood-burning fireplaces and wood-burning heaters.

STATE/FEDERAL: To support state and federal means of addressing, without duplication, the need for better air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, and to support state and federal actions that are effective and economically feasible, the following principles will guide District policy:

1. Support state and federal legislation that would preserve and enhance the ability of local governments to adequately finance mandated and essential services.
2. Support federal legislation or regulations that alleviate administrative burdens that are unnecessary for the protection of air quality, associated with permitting requirements.
3. Support legislation to streamline the permitting process at the local level that is efficient and effective. Oppose legislation that negatively affects the District's ability to protect and improve air quality.
4. Support legislation to reduce the duplicative oversight responsibilities of state agencies and boards vis a vis the regional air districts.
5. Support legislation that eliminates duplication between state and federal air quality agencies. Allow a single permit system that satisfies both state and federal regulations. California has the strictest air quality standards in the country. Federal duplication only hinders business and does not improve air quality.

6. Sponsor or support legislative options that would increase funding to the District to develop Valley-specific options for attainment.
7. Support legislation that promotes energy conservation and efficiency programs for energy end-users. Reduced energy use will result in lower pollutant emissions and a more stable electrical distribution system.
8. Support legislation that allows “net metering” or feed in tariffs for alternative energy projects.
9. Support legislation that encourages low-emission utilization of waste gas as an alternative to waste gas venting or flaring.
10. Seek adequate funding from CARB and EPA to implement state and federal air quality mandates.
11. Oppose efforts to allow the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks outside of the period surrounding the 4th of July.
12. The District supports the establishment of an Air Quality and Health Empowerment Zone Designation that would provide financial assistance to regions that have significant air quality, health, and economic challenges. This new program would provide financial assistance for incentive programs in areas that face significant air quality, health, and economic challenges. Given the Valley’s air quality challenges and continued double digit unemployment rates, the Valley would be a prime candidate for designation under this new program. The program would provide a mechanism for ongoing appropriations for incentive programs to accelerate the introduction of new emissions reduction technologies.