

# District Highlights

## January 16, 2014 Actions by the Governing Board

### Extreme weather conditions cause air quality deterioration and may hinder Valley efforts to attain the particulate standard

Absent the extreme weather conditions, San Joaquin Valley was set to have its cleanest winter on record. Although emissions that cause particulate matter and smog in the Valley are at record lows, the abnormal weather conditions we are experiencing in the Valley and throughout California have led to higher pollution concentrations. Winter 2013-14 was the driest year on record with severe prolonged stagnation, strong surface-based temperature inversions, and cold overnight temperatures with unseasonably warm afternoon highs.

The District’s residential wood burning rule (4901), which prohibits burning on days with poor air dispersion, helped reduce particulate matter concentrations by as much as 30 percent. However, these extreme conditions overwhelmed strong air pollution control measures.

#### Days over PM 2.5 Standard across California

Year (Nov/Dec)	Sacramento	Bay Area	SJV
2013	15	12	38
2012	2	0	16

The atmospheric conditions experienced in the Valley and throughout California which have led to stagnation and a lower than usual inversion level, over the past several weeks, are exceptional events not seen in modern history. However, barring recognition by EPA of these extreme weather conditions as “exceptional events” the Bay Area, other coastal regions, and Sacramento will be deemed nonattainment for the first time. More importantly, the District may not be able to show attainment by 2015 deadline for the PM 2.5 standard. The Governing Board discussed supporting new federal legislation being introduced by Sen. Flake of Arizona to define drought as an “exceptional event”. The Board also expressed concern about the heightened wild fire danger resulting from the extremely dry conditions that could lead to devastating air quality impacts in the coming months. The Board directed staff to work with federal land managers to explore means to reduce fire risk.

## **District Receives High Marks in Financial Audit**

Over the course of the last several years, the District has been successful in bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in state and federal funds that are reinvested in Valley communities to reduce air pollution. In exercising its fiduciary responsibilities, the District places a high priority on public accountability and transparency. Towards that end, the District finances are audited annually by an independent accounting firm.

At the January Board meeting, Fausto Hinojosa CPA of Price Paige and Co. presented the results of a recent independent audit of the District's financial statements and federal awards programs. The purpose of the audit was to assure that District financial statements conformed to strict governmental standards and that all federal dollars were spent in accordance with program requirements. The audit results presented by Mr. Hinojosa showed that the District received the highest possible scores with no need for corrections and maintained its status as a federal low-risk auditee.

## **Board expresses concern regarding state implementation of the Truck Regulation**

Although the state Air Resource Board is allowing for limited extensions of the truck regulation deadlines for some truckers, the District is concerned that more work is needed to avoid severe economic impacts to Valley truckers and their customers. The Board directed the staff to highlight the plight of the truckers working to comply with the rule in the District's Annual Report to the Community. The Board also placed an item on the February agenda to discuss and develop specific recommendations for the state Air Resources Board's consideration that will ensure timely reductions in truck emissions without economic devastation.

### **January Healthy Air Living Tip**

During the winter, warm air leaks through improperly sealed areas around windows and doors and into inadequately insulated attics and basements. Eliminating these problem areas can save up to 20 percent on your energy bill, and can help San Joaquin Valley residents collectively reduce smog-causing NOx emissions from energy production by as much as 178 tons per year.

Ref: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Tip: Make your home more energy efficient by plugging air leaks with caulking, sealing, or weather stripping and making sure that your attic and basement are properly insulated.**

For more clean air tips, see [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).

## **December District Activities**

### ***Outreach and Communications***

- In December, long stretches of wood-burning curtailments kept Outreach and Communications busy responding to public and media calls. The department began production of the annual report, and distributed 20,000 copies of the annual Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar to organizations throughout the Valley.
- OC staff responded to 24 media calls and 145 public calls and emails, and issued four news releases in November.

### ***Grant and Incentive Programs***

- The District received 1094 incentive program applications in December. 183 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 170 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.

- \$3,172,292 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program in December and 48 claims were paid.
- In December, \$312,854 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- \$65,250 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims in December and 125 claims were processed.

December 2013	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
Program	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts sent out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Claims paid	Sum of Grant Funding
Heavy Duty	170	60	\$2,014,142.30	81	\$3,172,292.73	48	\$1,821,105.75
School Bus	0	5	\$209,721.31	6	\$273,278.49	3	\$52,529.44
On-Road Prop 1B	642	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	10	\$510,000.00
Lawn and Garden	3	3	\$550.00	3	\$550.00	12	\$20,000.00
REMOVE	90	162	\$91,280.00	163	\$204,799.00	1,772	\$312,854.43
Burn Cleaner	183	199	\$107,300.00	199	\$107,300.00	125	\$65,250.00
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Public Benefit	6	1	\$60,000.00	11	\$647,891.06	15	\$211,417.98
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>\$2,482,993.61</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>\$4,406,111.28</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>\$2,993,157.60</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total
410	41	34	485

## Operations Overview

- **Compliance** completed 3,377 inspections in December. 479 NOVS were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 101.
- **Permits** received 300 applications in December. 248 permits were issued.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 14 smoking vehicle reports in December.
- **The District** received 127 environmental documents for review in December.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***  
9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***  
10 a.m. Tues., Feb. 4

**Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.**  
5 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 27

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) \*Webcast