

Actions by the Governing Board – April 18, 2019

District Governing Board Approves Enhancements to the District's Public Benefit Grants Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved several enhancements to the Public Benefit Grants Program aimed at broadening program eligibility and expanding the list of vehicles available to Valley public agencies. The Public Benefit Grants Program, launched in 2011, was developed to address the needs and challenges faced by Valley public agencies in their efforts to secure funding for clean-air projects. These projects encourage the use of state-of-the-art clean-air technology on the local level and achieve sustainable, long-term air quality benefits in the Valley. The enhancements approved by the Governing Board included broadening the program eligibility to include Community Action Agencies in the San Joaquin Valley established pursuant to the Economic Opportunities Act of 1964. These agencies are governed by boards that include local elected officials and like public agencies, these community action agencies often maintain fleets of dozens of vehicles and have budgetary constraints that make investing in clean-air technology difficult. Additionally, the Governing Board approved an expansion of the list of vehicles eligible for the New Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchase component to include hybrid police pursuit vehicles.

Continued Success of Residential Wood Burning Emissions Reduction Strategy during 2018-2019 Wood Burning Season

The Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2018-2019 Check Before You Burn season. This marked the fifth season since the 2014 amendment to the wood-burning rule, which significantly increased the number of no-burn days for high polluting wood-burning devices, and allowed for a substantial increase in burn days for clean wood-burning devices. Although the Valley experienced notably clean air quality in the months of December, January, and February, the month of November 2018 was severely impacted by excessive smoke from fires in Northern California.

Despite the period of strong atmospheric stability and wildfire impacts in November 2018, the Valley's air quality continued to trend in a positive direction and record new winter season clean air records. Even when including the excessively high PM_{2.5} concentrations from the wildfire period, the Valley recorded the lowest number of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI days across all counties, the second greatest number of Good AQI days across all counties, and the third lowest average PM_{2.5} average across all counties. Outside of the wildfire period, the Valley recorded the lowest number of days exceeding the 24-hour average PM_{2.5} standard of 35 µg/m³, and measured the cleanest month of February in Valley air quality recorded history.

In November 2018, the Camp Fire in Northern California significantly impacted air quality across California, and most heavily influenced the San Joaquin Valley in the northern counties of San Joaquin and Stanislaus. During this period, the Valley experienced some of the worst air quality in its recorded history due to the overwhelming amount of emissions from the Camp Fire. In response, the District conducted extensive public outreach to keep Valley residents informed of the air quality impacts and what they could do to protect their health.

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Burn Cleaner program with over \$2.2 million in funding for over 1,300 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2018-19. This past winter saw another successful Check Before You Burn outreach campaign, with Valley residents expressing significant interest in air quality and the District responding to nearly 500 public calls regarding wood burning activity, device registration, incentives and daily wood burning status, and 494 complaints for suspected wood burning activity. The success of this past winter season would not have been possible without the commitment from Valley residents to reduce their wood burning emissions, coupled with the District's multi-faceted

program that utilizes wood burning curtailments, incentives, public education/outreach, and strong enforcement to reduce wood smoke.

District Governing Board Approves Additional Funding for New Incentive Program to Support On-Field Alternatives to the Open Burning of Agricultural Materials

In November 2018, the Valley Air District Governing Board approved \$1,000,000 in funding for the implementation of a new pilot incentive program to support on-field alternatives to the open burning of agricultural waste materials. Until 2014, the open burning of agricultural waste in the Valley had been reduced by 80%. The exceptional drought conditions that the Valley recently experienced and the demise of the biomass power industry has resulted in an increase in the open burning of wood waste since that time and now threatens the Valley's progress. This new program offers incentive funding for emerging alternative practices as a mechanism to reduce the open burning of woody materials from orchard removals. Incentive options range from \$300 to \$600 per acre of agricultural material removed, up to a maximum of \$60,000 per recipient per year. To date, the District received applications requesting \$1.3 million in funding representing 2,687 acres of orchard removal. With the Board's action in April, the program was expanded to include material from vineyard removals and an additional \$1,000,000 was added to respond to the level of interest for the program. With an increased level of participation, the District can better understand the potential benefits of utilizing these alternative practices throughout the Valley.

District Governing Board Approves \$1,000,000 in Additional Funding to Demonstrate Low-Dust Nut Harvesting Technology in the Valley

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved \$1,000,000 in additional incentive funding for the District's new Low-Dust Nut Harvester Pilot Incentive Program. This program provides incentives to deploy and evaluate low dust nut harvesting equipment in the San Joaquin Valley. The low-dust nut harvester pilot incentive program builds upon more than a decade of significant investment made in the San Joaquin Valley to develop low-dust nut harvesting technologies and to understand the potential benefits on particulate matter (PM) emissions from the use of these new technologies. This program was launched by the District in December 2018 and was immediately well-received by the agricultural community; quickly exhausting the initial \$1,000,000 allocation. The additional \$1,000,000 approved by the Governing Board brings the total District allocation in this program to \$2,000,000 for the current fiscal year.

March District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In March, District staff continued to encourage residents, other interested individuals and businesses to attend the South Central Fresno and Shafter AB 617 Steering Committee meetings. The South Central Fresno Steering Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month and City of Shafter meets every second Monday of the month. For more information, visit community.valleyair.org.

The District was selected by CARB to administer a statewide incentive program for transit, school and shuttle buses funded by the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. The \$130 million fund will replace older, high-polluting diesel transit, school and shuttle buses with new battery-electric or fuel-cell buses. For more information on this latest program, call (559) 230-5800.

District staff completed its 16th residential wood burning end of the season report. Despite record-breaking wildfires at the beginning of the season, the remainder of the season was among the cleanest in recorded history. Incentives such as the Burn Cleaner program are critical to the Valley's success in reducing harmful PM2.5. Funds are still available. Now

through October is a great time to participate in the Burn Cleaner program or to get your clean burning device registered ahead of next year's wood burning season. Call the District (559) 230-5800 or visit valleyair.org/burncleaner for more details.

- In March, District staff responded to 6 media calls, 37 public calls, and 33 emails, and attended fourteen event/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In March, the District received 1109 incentive program applications. 185 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 566 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In March, \$19,052,439.27 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 168 claims were paid.
- In March, \$1,056,574.84 was paid-out in REMOVE II program claims.
- In March, \$465,335.83 was paid-out in Burn Cleaner program claims and 244 claims were processed.

	March 2019	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
Key	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
Burn Cleaner	Burn Cleaner-Wood Stove Chang Out	185	232	\$422,000.00	232	\$422,000.00	244	\$465,335.83
Commuter Subsidy	Park & Ride Lot Subsidy	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	1	\$22,818.00	1	\$22,818.00	0	\$0.00
Heavy Duty	Ag Engine Diesel to Diesel	0	10	\$160,410.00	8	\$124,500.00	0	\$0.00
	Ag Engine Alt Fuel to Electric	0	0	\$0.00	3	\$68,206.34	0	\$0.00
	Ag Burn Alternative	15	9	\$308,724.00	9	\$308,724.00	1	\$20,400.00
	Ag UTV	216	119	\$1,383,425.42	119	\$1,383,425.42	49	\$545,809.71
	Dairy Feed Mixer Electrification	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$417,565.93
	Locomotive	3	2	\$5,334,346.90	4	\$10,668,693.80	0	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	153	131	\$7,883,814.53	135	\$7,866,119.58	79	\$3,682,215.70
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement 2 for 1	0	1	\$222,155.39	1	\$222,155.39	3	\$1,092,000.00
	Off-Road Engine Repower	8	7	\$1,224,053.83	6	\$762,568.49	0	\$0.00
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	3	3	\$230,561.73	1	\$35,697.63	0	\$0.00
Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	1	16	\$443,947.47	15	\$443,947.47	15	\$1,358,830.69	

	On-Road Ag Truck Replacement	44	0	\$0.00	9	\$849,259.75	2	\$209,040.88
	On-Road New Purchase	47	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
	On-Road New Vehicle	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$20,000.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	44	13	\$661,000.00	19	\$1,360,500.00	2	\$46,848.98
	On-Road TVP Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	12	\$443,815.07
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	24	3	\$1,200,000.00	5	\$900,000.00	1	\$89,487.32
	School Bus Alt Fuel Tank Replacement	8	0	\$0.00	2	\$31,065.46	1	\$13,878.00
	Lawn & Garden	Residential Lawn Mower Replacement	48	17	\$3,950.00	17	\$3,950.00	17
Light Duty	EFMP Replacement	3	37	\$349,500.00	37	\$349,500.00	103	\$400,897.46
	TITU Admin/Events	5	6	\$28,738.62	6	\$28,738.62	6	\$22,845.22
	TITU Payroll	8	5	\$45,320.18	5	\$45,320.18	10	\$45,320.18
	TITU Repairs	52	46	\$229,242.88	46	\$229,242.88	46	\$229,242.88
	Charge Up - Private	2	6	\$200,000.00	6	\$200,000.00	0	\$0.00
	Charge Up - Public	6	5	\$73,000.00	5	\$73,000.00	3	\$40,940.00
	Van Pool Voucher	30	37	\$12,960.00	37	\$12,960.00	534	\$16,020.00
	Drive Clean - EV Vehicle Rebate	190	156	\$412,309.10	156	\$412,309.10	114	\$301,309.10
Public Benefit	Alt-Fuel New Vehicle	13	24	\$363,482.18	8	\$126,326.67	21	\$313,667.13
Technology Advancement	Tech. Advance Program	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$5,490.00
	Totals	1109	886	\$21,215,760.23	892	\$26,951,028.78	1,268	\$9,784,910.08

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
1,410	331	203	1944

Smoking Vehicles	16
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Operations Overview

- Completed 2,646 inspections in March, and 168 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 239.
- Received 208 permit applications in March, and 235 permits were issued.
- Received 252 environmental documents in March.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9:00 AM, May 16

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10:00 AM, August 6

Environmental Justice Advisory Group
5:30 PM, June 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

*Webcast