

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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Arvin clean-air police vehicles benefit Valley's air

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO: Arvin City Council and Valley Air District

WHAT: Showcasing hybrid police SUVs purchased with Air District grant

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 5 p.m.

WHERE: Arvin City Hall, 200 Campus Drive, Arvin

WHY: Example of significant investment in helping Valley communities make clean-air changes
Air District staff and Arvin officials will be available for media opportunities

Six new hybrid patrol vehicles are making a positive impact in air quality for one small Valley community.

Arvin, a low-income farming community in Kern County, received more than a half-million dollars in funds from the Air District to purchase hybrid SUVs for its police force plus municipal vehicles. Because of its geography and location in the Valley, the town is one of the most challenging places in the air basin to reach attainment for health-based, federal ozone pollution standards.

Additionally, the Air District's environmental justice outreach policy directs resources to those communities where residents suffer disproportionately from the effects of poor air quality. Arvin is one such community.

"The community is delighted that we're trying to do something. You've got to start somewhere and try to lead by example," said Arvin Mayor Tim Tarver. "Hey, somebody's got to take the bull by the horns."

Arvin Police Chief Tommy Tunson said the new hybrids – which account for half of the force's patrol fleet -- have had positive ramifications throughout the community.

"They have ushered in a new era of policing to protect our citizens' health as well as their safety," he said.

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In fact, as of last year, Arvin was one of just two communities in California and five throughout the U.S. that had hybrids on patrol in their police fleets, Tunson said.

The vehicles – including a front-end loader and a street sweeper (yet to be purchased) -- were funded with \$546,700 by the Air District, which is on an aggressive path to bring the eight-county Valley air basin into attainment for ozone standards years ahead of federal mandates. Vehicles are a major source of ozone precursors.

“We are constantly seeking ways to get the greatest mileage from our available funds to clean up the Valley’s air, and these incentives for Arvin are some of the best investments we can make,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s air pollution control officer and executive director. “We’re very pleased to contribute to Arvin’s dedication to living a Healthy Air life.”

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern. Visit www.valleyair.org to learn more.