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Attn: Local news, health, education and assignment editors

Media Contact

Heather Heinks (559) 994-7591

Spanish-language contact

Ana Stone (559) 230-5851

District funds world's cleanest diesel locomotive in Exeter

Four old switchers replaced with new ultra-clean equipment

Officials gathered today to celebrate the retirement and replacement of four Tier 0, locomotive switchers at the headquarters of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad in Exeter. The new engines from Knoxville Locomotive Works, boast being the "world's cleanest diesel locomotive," replacing three uncontrolled engines from 1977 and one from 1964.

"This is a great example of a public-private partnership that benefits our local communities and businesses by allowing them to upgrade to the best technology, as well as reducing emissions," stated Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County Supervisor and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board Member.

The Valley Air District partnered with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and San Joaquin Valley Railroad on the project, operating in Fresno, Bakersfield, Goshen, Exeter, Huron, Lemoore, Buttonwillow and many other Valley communities, including areas identified as AB 617 communities.

"Short line railroads such as the San Joaquin Valley, which provide the 'first and last mile' of freight service linking local customers to the large national railroads, are small businesses with duty cycles that don't require brand new locomotives," said San Joaquin Valley Railroad President Brad Ovitt. "We're grateful to the Air District for making the purchase of these four low-emission, state-of-the-art locomotives feasible, as they provide benefits to the communities served by the railroad that would not be possible for us to do on a stand-alone basis. It's a true win-win, public-private partnership."

A grant provided by the Valley Air District totaled approximately \$10.67 million in funding from Assembly Bill 134 and California Climate Investments (CCI). CCI is a state-wide initiative that puts cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment, with a focus on disadvantaged communities. For more information on California Climate Investments, visit www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

The project helps protect public health and improve quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley, by collectively reducing a total of 317.46 tons of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Particulate Matter (PM) and Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) over the life of the project, with a cost effectiveness of \$24,644 per ton.

For more information on the Valley Air District's Locomotive Program, visit:

<http://valleyair.org/grants/locomotive.htm>.

