

# News Release



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

>>City and assignment editors<<

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Air District shines in state audit

**(June 20)** – In a recent state audit, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has been lauded for its efficiency and the administration of millions of dollars in grant funding, which have been targeted at reducing emissions through the retrofit or replacement of old polluting diesel engines.

The District not only received high marks for being the fastest District to disperse the critical funding and for being innovative in the types of projects it funds, but it was also recognized for setting the bar in several recommended best practices as determined by the California State Auditor's assessment of Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program funds. For example, streamlined contracting, delegating staff authority to expedite project approval and innovative, targeted outreach were a few of the District's hallmarks that were recommended as best practices that should be adopted statewide.

The report criticized other air districts for not spending millions in funds within the required timeframe and for funding projects that exceeded the ceiling for cost-effectiveness, while noting that the District expedites applications most efficiently out of the four Districts evaluated.

"We are elated. Anytime the work of the District is evaluated by an independent organization using objective measures, the District exceeds standards and sets best practices," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's Air Pollution Control Officer. "We have devoted significant resources to the quick and efficient distribution of these critical funds, and we make sure they are used in the most effective manner to clean the Valley's air. This is just another example of the District leading the nation in administering air quality improvement programs."

The timing of the report is critical as the District is currently lobbying Sacramento for \$360 million out of the \$1 billion designated through Proposition 1B to air-quality mitigation. The report underscores the District's efficiency and effectiveness in utilizing large sums of public fund to improve air quality. The District currently has more than \$50 million in emission-reduction incentive projects that need funding to move forward.

The recent audit compared the administration of funding by the four California air districts that receive the largest amounts of Moyer funds: the Valley Air District; South Coast Air Quality Management District; the Bay Area Air Quality Management District; and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. Through the program, millions of dollars fund incentive projects that remove many tons per year of harmful pollutants.

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## Audit lauds District grant programs

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In the Valley Air District, Moyer funds are used to change out old diesel agricultural irrigation pump engines, replace and retrofit engines in on- and off-road heavy-duty vehicles, and many other projects that are enabling the District to move closer to attainment for various pollutants.

During fiscal year 2005-06, the Valley Air District awarded a record \$10 million in Moyer funds to Valley projects. Since 1992, the District has awarded over \$164 million in grant funds for projects which have reduced nearly 53,000 tons of emissions.

Funding from programs such as Moyer are critical in the Valley, as mobile sources such as cars and trucks – which are not under the Air District’s jurisdiction -- account for up to 80 percent of the Valley’s air pollution.

“Moyer funds are a crucial part of our ‘dual-path’ strategy for meeting federal ozone standards ahead of schedule,” Sadredin said, referring to the federal eight-hour ozone plan recently approved by the District’s Governing Board and the ARB. This “dual path” consists of command-and-control approaches through regulations and also funding voluntary measure through incentives such as Moyer. Grants through the District’s programs are available to individuals and organizations. For more information on grants and applications, please visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

“We work very hard to maximize every dollar that we receive in obtaining clean-air benefits, and it is very rewarding to be publicly recognized as such,” Sadredin said.