Air District to recognize City of Fresno’s efforts
Fresno mayor will accept resolution from District governing board at Thursday meeting

(Fresno, CA) – The governing board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on Thursday will recognize the City of Fresno for receiving a prestigious national award for its efforts to improve air quality by investing in a clean-air fleet.

The U.S. Department of Energy in May honored the City of Fresno with the City Fleet of the Year award as part of the 2005 Clean Cities National Partner Awards program. The City of Fresno received the award for changing out diesel transit buses, trolleys and other high-polluting vehicles with cleaner alternatives such as hybrid and liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles, as well as other clean-air efforts.

Most recently, the city built and opened an LNG fueling station and replaced 69 refuse-hauling diesel trucks with LNG-fueled trucks, which produce 40 percent less nitrogen oxides (a smog-forming gas) and 85 percent less particulate matter emissions. The remainder of the refuse-hauling fleet was upgraded with special filters to reduce emissions. The Valley Air District provided about $1.9 million in grants to assist with these projects.

During its monthly meeting Thursday morning, the Air District’s governing board will present to Fresno Mayor Alan Autry a resolution recognizing the city’s clean-air efforts.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at the Air District’s Fresno office at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. The meeting also will be video-conferenced to the Air District’s regional offices in Bakersfield at 2700 M St., Suite 275, and in Modesto at 4230 Kiernan Ave.

Although significant progress has been made in improving air quality in the San Joaquin Valley the past 13 years, the Valley air basin still violates health-based air pollution standards and must reduce emissions of ozone-forming gases and particulate matter. For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.