

## **Air district has \$900K for technology projects**

By Business Journal Staff

The Business Journal, Tuesday, June 8, 2010

The San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District has a total of \$900,000 available for proposals of projects that "demonstrate innovative, creative emission-reduction technologies.

Funding is available totaling for four to seven awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. The district is seeking technology demonstrations in the areas of renewable energy, waste to energy and mobile sources. Funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The request for proposals opened June 3 and the deadline for submissions is July 9 at 5 pm. Complete information, guidelines and forms are available at the Technology Advancement Program website. Proposals must be submitted to the District's Fresno office in hard copy (1990 E. Gettysburg, 93726).

For more information about the Valley Air District, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a regional office: in Fresno, (559) 230-6000; in Bakersfield, (661) 392-5500; and in Modesto, (209) 557-6400.

## **Valley air district still accepting tech proposals**

Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, June 8, 2010

FRESNO - The San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District is still accepting proposals for projects that demonstrate innovative and creative emission-reduction technologies.

Funding is available totaling \$900,000 for four to seven awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. The district is seeking technology demonstrations in the areas of renewable energy, waste to energy and mobile sources. Funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Request for proposals opened last week, and the deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m. Complete information, guidelines and forms are available at the Technology Advancement Program's Web page at [http://www.valleyair.org/Grant Programs/TAP/tap\\_idx.htm](http://www.valleyair.org/Grant%20Programs/TAP/tap_idx.htm) or by going to [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and selecting the Technology Advance Program icon. Proposals must be submitted in hard copy to the SJVAPCD's Fresno office at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.

Information: SJVAPCD Fresno office (230-6000).

## **Looming global warming rules prod farmer protest**

By Seth Nidever

Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Local growers are still getting used to San Joaquin Valley air pollution regulations they were exempt from until 2003. Now they face a new potential source of expensive controls: Rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions that affect global warming.

And here's the kicker - the rules are set to kick in automatically unless Congress intervenes.

In a letter sent to the U.S. Senate last month, several agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation – of which the Kings County Farm Bureau is a member – sent a protest letter to the Senate requesting a "disapproval resolution."

The resolution would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases until it is given the green light from Congress.

"[The] Farm Bureau has said all along that the Clean Air Act is not the place to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA's scheme will lead to increased input costs and costly regulations for farmers and ranchers. Passage of a disapproval resolution by Congress is the best way to ensure that national policy is set by policy makers accountable to the people and not by un-elected bureaucrats at EPA," said Bob Stallman, AFBF president.

If Congress doesn't act, the regulations will begin Jan. 2, 2011, according to the federation.

Farming interests have been debating the merits of applying greenhouse gas regulations to agriculture. Some say they believe that growing plants, because it takes carbon dioxide out of the air, will allow farmers to earn credits they can use to offset regulations.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a major global warming contributor. Dairies might also benefit by trapping methane from manure and burning the planet-warming gas to generate electricity.

But skepticism remains high, partly because the science of just how much agriculture adds to or subtracts from global warming isn't that well established yet. And ironically, local dairy producers who have tried to harness methane to run electricity turbines have had trouble getting approval for the turbines from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

## **Field hearing planned in Kettleman**

By Eiji Yamashita

Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, June 8, 2010

The California Legislative Caucus has announced a plan to hold a field hearing in Kettleman City next week, when federal and state officials are expected to update the community on the status of investigations into birth defect and other health concerns.

The hearing is scheduled to take place on June 17 at the Kettleman City Elementary School cafeteria starting at 5:30 p.m.

"The purpose of the Latino Legislative Caucus public hearing in Kettleman City is twofold," said Haley Myers, legislative aide to Assemblyman Tony Mendoza, D-Norwalk, who serves as vice chairman of the caucus.

"One is to give the affected families time to speak and voice their concerns, and to question the agencies conducting investigations. The second part is to get a status update on where the Cal EPA, U.S. EPA and California Department of Public Health investigations are currently, and what the next steps are in each investigation."

A rash of birth defects and infant deaths in the isolated town of Kettleman City is attracting national and statewide attention.

What's happening in the community has people increasingly concerned about the nearby landfill operation by Waste Management, which is now proposing to expand its toxic waste dump.

This spring, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional administrator Jared Blumenfeld promised an internal investigation into the agency's past handling of residents' concerns.

At least 11 birth defects have been reported since 2007.

Two state agencies - the California Department of Public Health and the California Environmental Protection Agency - are now investigating possible causes under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's order.

But a sense of frustration and distrust remains strong among the residents who complain about a historical lack of response and communication from these two state agencies.

Legislators - both federal and state - are also weighing in on the issue.

Earlier this spring, Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein called for a moratorium on the landfill expansion, while state Assemblyman Pedro Nava, who chairs the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, has done the same.

The California Environmental Protection Agency has said it will not make a decision regarding Waste Management's landfill expansion proposal until investigations are over and it can rule out pollution from the landfill as a cause of birth defects.

But the agency has said it will not stop processing the permit application throughout the course of the investigations.