

Grant to fund replacement, retrofit of older diesels

Staff Reports

Turlock Journal, Friday, July 2, 2010

Truckers traveling through Turlock and other areas of the San Joaquin Valley may be eligible to receive part of a \$45.5 million grant from the California Air Resources Board.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District received a grant for the retrofitting and replacing of older diesel trucks under Proposition 1B.

"This new funding is sorely needed to help the air basin reduce harmful pollution, the majority of which is caused by vehicle traffic, including heavy-duty trucks," said Seyed Sadredin, the air district's executive director and air pollution control officer.

The ARB awarded the funds to the Valley Air District citing their efficiencies in administering past grants and their readiness to disburse new funding.

The air district distributed more than \$15 million last year through their Voucher Incentive Program, which purchased and destroyed older diesel trucks if owners replaced them with vehicles that met 2007 emission standards. Trucks purchased through the program were obtained from 10 certified dealers, including Interstate Truck Center in Turlock.

"We are ready and able to disburse these funds quickly and the reduction in emissions will help the rest of the state as well, since many of these trucks travel to other regions," Sadredin said.

Diesel emissions are a significant factor in the Valley's struggle to meet health-based, clean-air standards. Highway 99 and Interstate 5 are considered the state's two major corridors for moving goods, and they both run north-to-south through the air district.

The application period will open within the next few months. Interested owners and operators can contact the air district's Strategies and Incentives Program at (559) 230-5800 for more information, or visit valleyair.org/grantprograms for information about other incentive programs.

Worth Noting: Funds to reduce truck emissions

Bakersfield Californian, Friday, July 2, 2010

More than \$45 million in funding will be given to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to help reduce harmful emissions by heavy-duty trucks.

The money, which was allocated by the state Air Resources Board, was approved by voters in 2006 through Proposition 1B. Previous grants stemming from the proposition have already run dry in the region.

The goal of the grants is to provide incentives for truck companies to improve air quality in California.

Interested owners and operators will be able to apply for funding in late summer or early fall, Valley Air District strategies director Samir Sheikh said.

For more information, call 1-800-766-4463 or visit the Valley Air District website at valleyair.org.