

Valley air district receives funding for 15 electric buses

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The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has awarded the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) funding for 15 electric Proterra Catalyst buses, 11 Proterra depot-charges and four Proterra fast-chargers in order to improve local air quality and public health in disadvantaged communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

These zero-emission vehicles will allow bus fleets to reduce operating costs while delivering clean, quiet transportation to the community.

Proterra will deploy its buses and charging station throughout the Valley, including the City of Visalia's Transit Division, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, California State University, Fresno, the San Joaquin Regional Transit District and the City of Modesto Transit Services.

Samir Sheikh, the deputy air pollution control officer of the SJVAPCD, said the program will significantly reduce harmful emissions and clean the air in the San Joaquin Valley.

"In the last 22 years, we have implemented voluntary incentive programs that have resulted in more than 134,000 tons of emission reductions," Sheikh said in a statement. "We are particularly proud of projects like this with Proterra, as they accelerate the deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty technologies, which reduces emissions from mobile sources, the biggest air quality challenge facing the Valley. We expect this program will eliminate 1.592 tons per year of weighted criteria pollutants."

CARB chair Mary D. Nichols said the investment will lead to job creation as well as reduced pollution.

"The state's investment of proceeds from the cap-and-trade program for made-in California electric buses is a smart move," Nichols said in a statement. "It generates new clean tech jobs right here in our state and helps replace dirty buses that generate high levels of pollution, with buses that have no emissions at all.

"This investment supports the market for larger zero-emission vehicles, cuts greenhouse gases, and delivers cleaner air where it is most needed: disadvantaged communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley."