

San Joaquin agency to receive \$3.9M for hybrid electric buses

News-Sentinel Staff

Lodi News Sentinel, Wed., Aug. 17, 2022

STOCKTON — San Joaquin Regional Transit District was awarded \$3.9 million in grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration to expand its hybrid electric bus fleet.

The expansion will allow RTD to enhance its service in underserved and marginalized neighborhoods in Stockton, the agency said.

RTD is one of 12 local agencies to receive a share of more than \$1.175 billion from the FTA's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, also known as a Low-No grant, designed to help transit agencies modernize their fleets with advanced technologies to improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gases.

Projects were selected based on several factors including air quality benefits, economic competitiveness, financial leverage, transformational impact, and readiness to implement.

"We are grateful to the FTA, Senator (Alex) Padilla, and the California congressional delegation for securing this funding," RTD CEO Alex Clifford said in a Tuesday media statement.

"RTD is committed to providing equitable transportation to the residents of our community while also being good stewards of the environment, and this grant allows us to do both," he added. "Our goal is to increase service levels and frequency, providing better access to employment, education, healthcare, and shopping offering more opportunities and impacting the lives of many residents."

The Low-No grant will assist in purchasing five new Gillig hybrid electric buses allowing RTD to expand and increase the service frequency of routes 525 and 576.

These routes currently serve areas identified by the United States Department of Transportation San Joaquin County Census Tract as Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

Investments in these communities align with President Biden's Justice40 Initiative and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District's mission of improving Central Valley residents' health and quality of life.

"It is important we continue to invest not only in cleaner vehicles but also in the infrastructure needed to support them," Senator Alex Padilla said in Tuesday's media statement. "That is why I will continue to advocate for more funding to transition to buses that are better for our environment and public health."

For more information visit sjRTD.com, follow RTD on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or call (209) 943-1111.

Wishon Fire stays at 350 acres, 45 percent contained

Porterville Recorder, Wed., Aug. 17, 2022

The Wishon Fire that began on Monday afternoon in the Sequoia National Forest had reached 350 acres as of Wednesday afternoon.

As of Wednesday afternoon the fire that began on Monday afternoon had reached 350 and was 45 percent contained. Firefighters continued to respond to the wildfire in the Tule River Canyon near the Stairs on the Western Divide Ranger District in the Sequoia National Forest. Personnel from Sequoia National Forest, CAL FIRE, Tulare County Fire, and other agencies were on scene as of Wednesday afternoon, including 9 engines, 14 hand crews, 5 helicopters, air attack and 6 air tankers. A Type 2 Incident Management Team has been requested.

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux lifted the Evacuation Warning for Wishon Camp and Doyle Springs on Tuesday.

The California Highway Patrol also lifted all road closures on Tuesday but fire personnel, heavy equipment and utility companies are still working in the area so the public is still advised to avoid traveling on Highway 190 and Wishon Drive.

An alert was sent out to local residents regarding the fire. Information will continue to be updated as it becomes available.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. No injuries have been reported.

The Federal Aviation Administration also on Wednesday issued a Temporary Flight Restriction within a five-mile radius of the fire.