

VALLEY AIR NEWS

September 2019



It's Back to School Season, Be Mindful of Air Quality

When school is back in session, increased vehicle traffic contributes to a rise in ground-level ozone. The Valley Air District reminds parents they can help protect public health and the health of students by reducing vehicle emissions through carpooling and turning off their engines during school pick-ups and drop-offs. Valley residents are also urged to reduce vehicle emissions by driving less, driving zero-emission or low-emission vehicles, keeping their vehicles tuned up and avoiding the use of drive-through services. Such actions by Valley residents and businesses have contributed to a vast improvement in the air quality over the past several years.

Residents and schools can monitor ozone and particulate matter levels by visiting myRAAN.com or downloading the free *Valley Air* app from the Apple Store or Google Play. These tools allow users to save multiple locations and quickly view the air quality level at their saved locations in order to make informed decisions about outdoor activities.

District Unveils Community Emissions Reduction Programs

As required by Assembly Bill (AB) 617, the District has worked closely over the past year with community steering committee members, state and local agencies, and other organizations to complete and publish Community Emissions Reduction Programs (CERPs) for Shafter and South Central Fresno.

AB 617, signed into law in July, 2017, initiated a state-wide effort to monitor and reduce air pollution, and improve public health, in communities that experience disproportionate burdens from exposure to air pollutants, through new community-focused, community-driven actions. Shafter and South Central Fresno were prioritized by the Air District and subsequently selected by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the two first-year communities in the San Joaquin Valley to receive clean air resources newly available under AB 617. The selection was based on the technical analysis of several pollution and public health-related criteria.

Unanimously approved by the Governing Board Sept. 19, 2019, the CERPs employ proven and innovative strategies and significant resources, to improve community health by reducing exposure to air pollutants in the two selected communities.

An estimated combined total of \$82 million in emission reduction incentives will be invested for cleaner cars and trucks, and a variety of other clean air projects for the two communities. These efforts are projected to achieve approximately 543 tons of PM_{2.5} reductions and 3,380 tons of NO_x as well as significant reductions in air toxics emissions, particularly with respect to diesel particulate matter from mobile sources.

To learn more about the District's AB 617 implementation, visit: community.valleyair.org

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