

District Highlights

December 19, 2013 Actions by the Governing Board

District's Governing Board Streamlines Regulations for Valley Gas Stations

As a part of ongoing efforts to review and continuously improve District rules and policies, the Board approved changes to two existing District rules that are aimed at controlling emissions from gas stations. One change will eliminate the need for vapor control systems on gas pumps that dispense the alternative ethanol-based fuel known as "E85". Requiring emissions controls on these pumps would be redundant since all new flex-fueled cars using E85 have on-board vapor controls. The other rule change reduces the frequency for performing system blockage testing for gas dispensers from once per year to once per five years. While the blockage testing is important, it is also costly and invasive and may increase emissions if performed too frequently. Both of these changes are consistent with state and federal requirements, and neither change is expected to significantly impact emission levels.

The District's Governing Board approves \$5,000,000 in funding for alternative fuel infrastructure projects under the Public Benefit Grants program

The Public Benefit Grants Program was developed to assist local public agencies and educational institutions bring to fruition emission reduction projects that provide broad benefits to Valley residents. In response to a competitive Request for Proposals for alternative fuel infrastructure projects released on July 1, 2013, the District's Governing Board approved project selections totaling \$5,000,000 for projects throughout the Valley (see below table for summary of projects). Project recommendations were made in made in strict adherence to the selection criteria and funding formulas established by the District's Governing Board.

Region	Project:	Lifetime Emission Reductions (tons of NOx, PM, and VOC)	Recommended Funding	Cost-effectiveness (\$/ton)
North	City of Lathrop – Clean Energy Lathrop Public-Access L/CNG Fueling Station (New Station)	384	\$975,000	\$2,967
	Lodi Unified School District – CNG Upgrade Fueling Station (Expansion)	143	\$511,454	\$4,170
Regional Total		527	\$1,486,454	
Central	Southwest Transportation Agency – Southwest Transportation L/CNG Station Upgrade (Expansion)	108	\$798,411	\$8,665
	Fresno Unified School District – CNG Fuel Station Expansion Project	91.6	\$804,123	\$10,253
Regional Total		200	\$1,602,534	
South	City of Visalia – CNG Station Expansion	210	\$700,000	\$3,888
	Kern County Superintendent of Schools – Expansion of Existing CNG Infrastructure	191	\$1,211,012	\$7,418
Regional Total		401	\$1,911,012	
Grand Total for Recommended Projects		1,128	\$5,000,000	

The District's Governing Board approves next steps for the Public Benefit Grants program and allocates \$8 million in additional funding – The District's Public Benefit Grants program has proven successful in assisting local public agencies implement clean-air projects that provide benefits to Valley residents. To remain responsive to the Valley's needs, the District's Governing Board approved \$8 million in additional funding for a competitive solicitation for Mass Transit, Park and Ride, and Alternative Commute projects. Additionally, the District will assess the feasibility of developing several new first-come first-served grant components under the Public Benefit Grants Program, including small-scale electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and alternative fuel infrastructure repair. After completing its assessment of these new potential grant components, the District will return to the Governing Board with final recommendations.

Governing Board Sets District's Legislative Priorities - The District Governing Board has adopted a new legislative platform for 2014. The platform will provide guidance in the District's efforts to inform legislators at both the state and federal level of the air quality challenges that we face, and the need for additional resources and policy tools to continue to bring cleaner air to Valley residents. The key provisions of the platform are:

- (Federal) Seek legislative common sense improvements to the Federal Clean Air Act. In addition to our legislative proposals, the District has worked with EPA to advance administrative changes that can address certain issues with the Clean Air Act. These efforts have been productive, as EPA included many of the District's suggestions in their proposed implementation rule for the 8-hour Ozone Standard which was recently published for public comments.
- (State) As the state develops updated policies/guidelines for the Carl Moyer program, the District will pursue policies that continue to focus the program on public health, maintain formulas that take air quality challenges into consideration, and that utilize cost-effectiveness surplus emission reductions as the primary eligibility criteria.
- (State) The compliance regiment under the state's Cap and Trade program may lead to increases in criteria and toxic emissions or missed opportunities to reduce such emissions in certain areas. Therefore, the District will advocate for policies that target a portion of Cap and Trade revenues to regions that are already overly impacted by criteria pollutant emissions with a greater focus on environmental justice communities.
- (State/Federal) The District will oppose greenhouse gas measures that are detrimental to public health due to increases in criteria pollutant or toxic emissions, and support greenhouse gas measures that achieve criteria pollutant and toxic emissions reductions.
- (State) Support measures that streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by reducing unnecessary litigation, allowing credit for compliance with environmental regulatory requirements, and minimizing red tape.
- (State/Federal) When assessing state/federal policies concerning disadvantaged communities, the District considers poverty as a key factor contributing to diminished public health. The District will oppose efforts that lead to "redlining" these communities and inhibit economic growth. The District will support measures that improve quality of life and economic welfare by providing new state and federal resources. The District will oppose measures that dilute local control by diverting local revenues or the authority over the expenditure of local resources to the state or federal government.
- (Federal) Support the establishment of an Air Quality and Health Empowerment Zone designation that would provide financial assistance to regions that have significant air quality, health, and economic challenges.

- (State/Federal) Seek funding and other support from the State Air Resources Board and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to install and operate additional air quality monitoring instruments throughout San Joaquin Valley.
- (State/Federal) Support efforts that provide for cost-effective alternatives to agricultural burning including subsidies and/or preferential utility rates for power produced from biomass and additional research to identify other technologically and economically feasible alternatives.
- (State/Federal) Support energy efficiency/alternative energy policies and initiative that will result in emissions reductions and cost effective alternatives to burning agricultural waste.
- (State/Federal) Support adequate resources and policies to reduce the impact of wildfires and their attendant public health impact.
- (Federal) Support the continuation of air quality funding in the Farm Bill that is designed to accelerate the replacement of agricultural equipment.

Board Approves Annual Report on Implementation of the District's Indirect Source Review Rule –

District Rule 9510, Indirect Source Review (ISR), was adopted by the District's Board in 2005 to reduce the impacts of growth in emissions resulting from new land development in the Valley. The rule requirements establish a path for developers to reduce and mitigate the impact of emissions that occur during and after construction of new land development projects, either through onsite improvements or through the payment of fees that the District then uses for offsite mitigation. The 2012-13 Annual ISR Report is available on the District's web site at www.valleyair.org.

In 2012-2013, the District ISR program experienced a 10% increase in the number of impact assessment applications compared to the prior year, and an 87% increase compared to the lowest year of the recession, 2009-2010. The amount of off-site mitigation fees collected decreased by 33%, to \$1,262,861. This reduction in off-site fees resulted from project proponents more frequently using clean construction fleets and incorporating better project design elements resulting in lower emissions. This trend toward lower offsite mitigation fees is consistent with the intent of the ISR rule, which is to compel air-friendly onsite design choices that add value to residential and commercial projects, and to encourage the use low-emitting construction fleets.

December Healthy Air Living Tip

Even low levels of wood smoke can cause a health risk for you, your family and your neighbors. Wood burning produces particulate matter, a dangerous form of air pollution that can invade your bloodstream and cause respiratory disease, heart attacks and stroke.

Reference: <http://www.valleyair.org/brochures/docs/English/2013-CBYB-brochure.pdf>

Tip: Throughout the wood burning season, November 1 through February 28, the District's "Check Before You Burn" webpage indicates, by county, if burning is permitted each day. The daily air quality forecast for each county is also available. Visit <http://www.valleyair.org/CBYB>, or call 1-800-SMOG-INFO, to check the wood-burning status in your area.

And don't forget to visit <http://www.valleyair.org/burncleaner> for information on how to replace your old wood or pellet burning devices with new, cleaner options.

For more clean air tips, see www.healthyliving.com.

November District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- Outreach and Communications produced and printed the annual Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar. Staff also conducted news conferences in each region to kick off the 11th Check Before You Burn season, as well as organized regional news conferences for the announcement of 1-hour ozone attainment. Planning began for the production of the annual report.

- OC staff responded to 16 media calls and 53 public calls and emails, and issued seven news releases in November.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 526 incentive program applications in November. 207 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 197 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- \$7,242,680 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program in November and 94 claims were paid.
- In November, \$512,426 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- \$50,550 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims in November and 92 claims were processed.

November 2013	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
Program	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts sent out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Claims paid	Sum of Grant Funding
Heavy Duty	197	76	\$2,602,876.83	109	\$4,150,178.79	94	\$3,365,795.30
School Bus	0	10	\$565,078.97	13	\$756,060.61	11	\$242,083.65
On-Road Prop 1B	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	12	\$335,000.00
Lawn and Garden	4	5	\$1,050.00	5	\$1,050.00	5	\$1,050.00
REMOVE	112	119	\$185,252.42	122	\$471,715.42	4,426	\$512,426.06
Burn Cleaner	207	195	\$105,300.00	195	\$105,300.00	92	\$50,550.00
Technology Advancement	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$192,400.00	0	\$0.00
Public Benefit	5	17	\$3,783,121.82	7	\$762,140.04	25	\$381,030.75
Totals	526	422	\$7,242,680.04	452	\$6,438,844.86	4,665	\$4,887,935.76

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total
673	54	62	789

Smoking Vehicles	13
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Operations Overview

- **Compliance** completed 2,804 inspections in November. 190 NOVS were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 201.
- **Permits** received 222 applications in November. 330 permits were issued.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 13 smoking vehicle reports in November.
- **The District** received 160 environmental documents for review in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 16

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10 a.m. Tues., Jan. 7

Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.
5 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 27

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: www.valleyair.org *Webcast