

Air District offers rebates for electric ag vehicles

Written by Business Journal Staff

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Farmers and other agricultural workers can now be compensated for purchasing electric utility terrain vehicles through rebates offered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Nearly \$1 million is being allotted by CARB as part of its Agricultural UTV Rebate Project to encourage clean air through zero-emission ATVs and UTVs, where up to \$2,500, or 15 percent of the price per vehicle, may be returned.

Individuals, businesses, public agencies and entities, and nonprofit organizations involved in agriculture are eligible for the rebate and there is no limit on the number of vehicles purchased per applicant.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which is administering the program locally, is currently accepting applications. Information about the program and rebate applications, which may be submitted online or by mail, are available on the District's website at www.valleyair.org.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District seeks ideas on goods movement grants

Pollution grants meeting set for Thursday

By Denis Cuff

Contra Costa Times & Tri-Valley Herald, Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Bay Area residents are invited to a workshop to discuss how to dispense grant money to fight pollution from the movement of freight in the Bay Area.

The workshop will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis St., San Francisco.

The Bay Area agency must decide by Monday what projects to seek funding for as part of a \$70 million statewide grant program aimed at reducing emissions from trucks, ships and railroads.

The California Air Resources Board decides on the grants funded by the goods movements section of a transportation bond measure approved by state voters in 2006.

As moisture falls, burn restrictions ease in Placer, Nevada, Yuba counties

By Kim Minugh

Modesto Bee, Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Today's storm might have been your first clue, but the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection announced today a decrease in burn restrictions in Nevada, Yuba and Placer counties.

Following cool temperatures and the region's first significant rain, officials have ended its seasonal ban on residential burning, although residents still are required to obtain permits for any burning and must burn only on days permitted by the local Air Pollution Control district, according to a Cal Fire news release.

Residents also must adhere to the following regulations, according to the release:

- Burn pile can be no larger than four feet in diameter.
- All flammable material and vegetation must be cleared within a 10-foot radius of the pile's outer edge.
- A water supply must be kept close by.
- An adult should be present and with a shovel during the burning.
- Burning should be done only during appropriate weather conditions. For example, burning should not be conducted on windy days.

Cal Fire officials warn residents that they could be cited and held liable for suppression costs and damages if a residential burn gets out of control.

To find out what days are permissible burn days, residents can call:

- (530) 889-6868 in Placer County within 12 miles of Auburn
- (800) 998-2876 in Placer County
- (530) 741-6299 in Yuba County
- (530) 274-7928 in Nevada County
- (530) 582-1027 in the Truckee area

For more information about burn permit requirements, call Cal Fire at (530) 889-0111 or visit www.fire.ca.gov.

[Merced Sun-Star, Letter to the Editor, Wednesday, May 5, 2010](#)

Letter: Slow down to pitch in

Editor: As a county, we are faced with a great number of hardships. As summer nears, we will face these obstacles with an even greater load. Temperature and long-term air pollution will rise to unbearable levels, while families' budgets will be strained with the increased number of students at home.

Although there is no easy fix to every problem, everyone in this county can make an effort to help improve our air quality as well as their personal economic situation.

I propose that this county, as well as surrounding farming communities, decrease all elevated speed limits to 55 mph.

This would cause commuters to spend a few extra minutes driving, but if every driver makes this small change, a number of benefits can be realized.

At 55 mph, cars will be able to achieve their greatest efficiency of gas usage which will allow drivers to save some of the added expense they will endure as the summer heat beckons the use of air conditioners in cars. The reduction of gas used will also decrease the amount of this community's carbon dioxide emissions, thus reducing each driver's effect on our environment.

This small change amongst a large number of individuals can lead to a vast number of benefits for the greater Merced community.

JACOB AFGHAN
Merced

[Modesto Bee, Letter to the Editor, Wednesday, May 5, 2010](#)

Unrealistic expectations

In response to the April 23 article "Cattle feed may be cause of air woes" (Page B-1): It seems to me that the cows are somewhat off the hook for contaminating the air by burping and producing manure. Us humans, 300+ million in this great country, do the same.

Where and who finds those people who sit on these boards to decide all this? In this economic crisis why are those boards not eliminated or cut back or replaced with people who have common sense? Seyed Sadredin, what are you thinking? Feeding silage or other feed out of bags instead of trucks. How many people and bags would it take to feed a herd of 1,500 to 2,000 cows two times a day. I like to suggest you volunteer to this for a week and then come up with a logical solution.

HENDRIK J. BOMER
Oakdale