

Worth Noting: Free emissions tests, repair vouchers available on Saturday

Bakersfield Californian, Friday, January 26, 2018

The Kern County Fairgrounds will host a Tune In and Tune Up car cleanup event on Saturday.

The event will be held between 8 a.m. and noon at the fairgrounds, 1142 S. P St. Local drivers who have owned their vehicles for at least six months will be eligible for a free emissions test. Vehicles that do not pass — up to 525 — will be given a \$500 voucher for repairs at a smog shop. No gate entry before 6:30 a.m.

Organizers warn that the wait could be over two hours for your vehicle to be seen.

The event is sponsored by Valley Clean Air Now, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and Healthy Air Living.

There will be free food and drinks available in the morning while supplies last. For more information, visit valleycan.org.

Money on the way to help fund clean air projects across the San Joaquin Valley

By Kathia Hall

KBAK/KBFX Eyewitness News, Tuesday, January 23, 2018

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is getting \$88 million to fund clean air projects thanks to the California Air Resources Board.

"It will be funding probably used to change out mobile things primarily, so things like heavy-duty diesel trucks, tractors, school buses, larger sources of diesel particulate matter," said Jamie Holt, the Valley Air District's communications officer.

Over the past several years, Kern County has received more than \$220 million toward pollution-reduction projects.

"Our grant program has invested almost \$117 million," said Holt. "Our partners, so the business and the residents that come forward, they always have to have matching funds. We don't just give out grant money without the member of the public or business person being willing to put some skin in the game, so to speak, and those individuals and businesses have invested \$105 million."

Holt said this money is important in the valley, where air pollution is a big problem, and the money goes a long way in helping to reduce that pollution.

"They have reduced nearly 20,000 tons of NOx emissions in Kern County. They have played a significant role in seeing the improvement of air quality that we have seen over the last 20 years," said Holt.

Local schools have even taken part in helping to reduce emissions through these grant programs. For instance, the Wasco Union School District purchased five zero-emission electric cars with the help of the Valley Air District.

"These are \$30,000 cars, and we were able to get them for \$20,000. Then, we located another state grant that provided \$10,000 for a car, so these cars for the school district are essentially free," said Wasco Superintendent Kelly Richers.

Staffers use these clean-air cars to travel to their five schools in the district.

"We are a lot of stop and go in this town, so by being able to use these smaller zero-emissions cars, we know we are not contributing to the problem," said Richers.

The Wasco Union School District has an application in for another five zero-emission cars and hopes to have those by the spring.

If you would like to submit an application for the grant money, call the Valley Air District at (559) 230-5800.