Heavy-Duty Engine Program Proves Popular

Replacing a pre-1987 engine with a later model unit will give a 40-50 percent emission (NOx) reduction.

The Valley Air District’s Heavy-Duty Engine Incentive Program has received applications that are likely to consume all available funding. “Response from the public has been overwhelming,” reported Rich Milhorn, planning manager. “We have developed an effective, user-friendly program and it shows in the results.”

In less than eight months, the Heavy-Duty Program has received applications for nearly $10 million in projects. Funding for these projects is provided from state and District sources. In July of 1999, the initial round of the state’s Carl Moyer Incentive Program provided $4.4 million. The District Governing Board allocated $2.5 million in DMV Surcharge Fees in September 1999. An additional $3.2 million in Moyer Program funds are due to be released to the District later this month.

Although all District and Moyer funds have been allocated, other federal funds totaling approximately $1.4 million are available under the District’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) heavy-duty vehicle project funded in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced and Tulare Counties. CMAQ projects are limited to public agencies and private companies providing services contracted by public agencies, including refuse haulers and transportation service providers.

Emission reductions from the Heavy-Duty Program are substantial. The initial $4.4 million in Moyer Program funding alone has helped applicants to purchase 361 cleaner engines that will reduce 1.65 tons per day of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) at a cost-effectiveness of less than $2,000 per ton of NOx. Similar reductions are expected when emissions are quantified from the remaining projects.

Although future funding of the Moyer Program is uncertain, the state-appointed Moyer Program Advisory Board will make a recommendation to the Governor and the legislature on continued funding for the program in April. Statements by Advisory Board members suggest strong support for the program and for increased funding.
GOVERNING BOARD REVIEW

There was no March meeting.

Future meetings are:
- April, 20, 2000
- May 18, 2000
- June 15, 2000
- July- No meeting
- August 17, 2000
- September 21, 2000
- October 12, 2000
- November- No meeting
- December 14, 2000

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. in the District’s Central office in Fresno, and via video-teleconference in the Modesto and Bakersfield offices.

An Ozone Rate of Progress Plan (or ROP) is also currently in progress. To meet a Federal Clean Air Act requirement, California air districts and the Air Resources Board must report to EPA every three years on their progress in achieving an average three percent per year reduction in ozone precursor emissions. The District expects to complete this portion of the ROP in April.

The California Clean Air Act Annual Report regarding the District on the status of control measure implementation and rulemaking, has also been completed. This report compares recent VOC and NOx rulemaking activity with the commitments established in the 1991 Air Quality Attainment Plan and the 1994 and 1997 AQAP Triennial Updates. It also shows the rulemaking forecast through mid-2001.

The year 2000 rulemaking agenda calls for the development of six VOC rules, as well as amendments to Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10) and Rule 4103 (Open Burning). Project documents are currently available or will be by the end of May. The VOC rules include new Rule 4411 (Well Cellars), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), Rule 4623 (Storage of Organic Liquids), Rule 4662 (Organic Solvent Degreasing Operations), Rule 4663 (Organic Solvent Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal), and new Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling).

For additional information on any of these projects, and for specific meeting dates and times, please call the Valley Air District at (559) 230-5800 or visit our website @ www.valleyair.org.

Drill Day 2000
The Big Clean Air Pay-Off-- Take Two

Each year the Valley Air District kicks off Spare the Air season with Drill Day, an opportunity for the public, Employer Partners, and the media to practice their notification methods and air pollution-reduction plans prior to an actual Spare the Air Day. This year’s event will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2000.

The Big Clean Air Pay-Off-- Take Two promises to be a rewarding and educational day for residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Participating businesses are encouraged to offer special incentives or discounts to people who avoid or postpone pollution-causing activities on Drill Day. More than 25 businesses took part in last year’s event.

Here are a few examples of who participated and how:
- City of Clovis and Fresno Area Express offered free ride tokens and coupons.
- Jones Cleaning Centers offered 25 percent discount on dry cleaning for pick-up and delivery customers.
- Madera Cars Unlimited gave $2 discounts toward quick lube & oil filter changes.

The Valley Air District will again recognize and promote organizations participating in The Big Clean Air Pay-Off-- Take Two. For more Drill Day details and promotional ideas, call the Valley Air District’s Public Education section at (559) 230-5800.
About the Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Engine Incentive Program

Named for the late Dr. Carl Moyer, this program recognizes his work in air quality. Moyer spent his life seeking practical solutions to environmental and air quality programs.

The Carl Moyer Incentive Program helps businesses and public agencies reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions below mandated levels in heavy-duty trucks, buses, agricultural and construction equipment, and other selected engines.

NOx emissions are an important factor in the formation of ozone (smog) and secondary particulate matter (soot). The San Joaquin Valley does not meet the federal and state air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter, which were established to protect public health.

Internal combustion engines are a major source of these pollutants and careful study has identified heavy-duty engines as a source of cost-effective NOx emission reductions.

Administered by the Air Resources Board of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Moyer Program Funds are distributed through local air pollution control districts.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District currently has exhausted the initial funding for the Carl Moyer Incentive Program, although future funding for this program is likely.

For further information, please call (559) 230-5858, or visit the District’s website @ www.valleyair.org.

District Awarded Grant for Transportation Options Project

The Valley Air District has been awarded a $230,059 grant from the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program, a component of the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Program is managed by the Federal Highway Administration and has awarded a total of $31.1 million to 84 projects nationally. The Valley Air District competed in a field of 327 applicants.

The title of the project is Creating Transportation Options in the San Joaquin Valley Through Improved Land Use Patterns. Partners in the project include the Local Government Commission, the Cities of Fresno and Reedley, and the Growth Alternatives Alliance (GAA), which is comprised of the Fresno Business Council, the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the San Joaquin Building Industry Association, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and the American Farmland Trust.

The project’s objective is to implement policy recommendations contained in GAA’s document A Landscape of Choice—Strategies for Improving Patterns of Community Growth. Ordinance changes and design guidelines contained in this document will be implemented in Fresno and Reedley, which will provide examples for large and small cities to follow. The Valley Air District and the Local Government Commission are responsible for sharing the results of the project at San Joaquin Valley events and in various publications.

Uncle Harry’s New York Bagelry & Coffeehouse

Co-Recipient of the 1999 Air District Award of Distinction for Outstanding Efforts on Behalf of Spare the Air

Uncle Harry’s New York Bagelry & Coffeehouse has led the way to a clearer future for all Valley Air District residents by actively participating in the Spare the Air program for the past two years.

In an effort to reduce motor vehicle emissions and encourage carpooling on Drill Day 1999, Uncle Harry’s offered its customers Buy one, Get one free with iced coffees and cappuccinos. The motto of the day was “Pick up a friend, then perk up with coffee.”

In 1998, they kicked off Spare the Air season with tremendous fanfare. Uncle Harry’s displayed educational posters in all four of its Fresno restaurants on Drill Day and encouraged patrons to reduce air pollution causing activities and the use of pollution causing products by giving away Spare the Air incentive items.

Wayne and Rena Rutledge, owners of Uncle Harry’s, also donated Bagel Dough gift certificates as prizes for the District’s Employer Partner Referral Contest. Thanks to the contributions of Uncle Harry’s and companies like it, 25 new partners were recruited that year.

The Valley Air District salutes Uncle Harry’s for its contributions in supporting cleaner air in the San Joaquin Valley.