



Environmental Justice group seeks new members

Since August 2008, the Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) has held regular meetings encouraging the grass roots participation of community members in Air District activities and outreach.

The EJAG's goal is to ensure that all Valley populations have an equal voice in helping develop air quality strategies. "Environmental Justice is about making sure community members living in economically and/or environmentally disadvantaged areas are at the table making decisions that will affect their communities, their families, and their quality of life," said Melissa Kelly-Ortega, EJAG chair.

There are 13 seats on the committee: eight "at-large" county representatives, two ethnic, small-business owners, and three Citizens' Advisory Committee members.



Now, the District is seeking new members to fill open seats. There are vacancies for three at-large representatives from Kings, Kern and Madera counties, a seat for an ethnic, small-business owner and, as of June 1, an at-large representative from Stanislaus County.

Eligible members must be residents of the San Joaquin Valley and have an interest in being an active advocate for environmental justice communities.

"The Air District's Environmental Justice Advisory Group will not reach its full potential without members of Environmental Justice communities filling these seats," Kelly-Ortega said.

EJAG meetings are open to the public and held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. They are videoconferenced from all three District offices.

For more information and an application, visit www.valleyair.org/Programs/EnvironmentalJustice/Environmental_Justice_idx.htm or call an Air District office.

Air District makes \$2 million available to repower locomotives

The Valley Air District is seeking applications to repower line-haul, medium horsepower or switch locomotives with \$2 million of available funding.

Funds are provided through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To be eligible for funding, a railroad must operate individual switch locomotives, MHP locomotives or intrastate line haul locomotives at least 50 percent of the time within the District's boundaries.

The Application period opens on April 10 and closes on May 25. Projects will be ranked and all applicants will be notified of their status. Unfunded applications will be kept active and may be funded as more funds become available.

For more information or to apply, contact the District's Grants program at 559-230-6000 or visit: www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/GrantPrograms.htm.

Mark your calendar

The following spring events taking place throughout the Valley highlight health, environmental stewardship and air quality issues.

April 21

- Lung Association Fight for Air Walk in Bakersfield, Yokuts Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Bakersfield College Garden Fest, Bakersfield College, Renegade Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Modesto's Earth Day in the Park Festival, Graceada Park, 10a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Spring Nature and Earth Day Festival, Kern River Valley Nature Preserve, Highway 178, 60 miles northeast of Bakersfield

April 22

- Stockton's Earth Day Festival, Victory Park, 11a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 24

- Chamber of Air Asthma Party (Asthma Awareness Event), Richland School District Parents Center, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

April 25

- Bike to Work and School Day, University of the Pacific, University Center, Stockton, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 28

- Riverbank's Beyond Earth Day Event, Jacob Myers Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Celebrate Cal State, Bakersfield/Earth Day, CSUB Campus, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 2

- Asthma Awareness Fair (Stanislaus County Asthma Coalition), Memorial Medical Center, Modesto, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 5

- Fourth Annual Water-Wise Plant Exchange Event, Fresno State Horticulture Greenhouses, 8 A.M. to Noon.

May 9

- Bakersfield's Bike to School Day

May 11

- Golden Valley Health Center's Earth Day Celebration, 737 W. Childs Ave., Merced, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 12

- World Asthma Day Celebration, Merced/Mariposa Asthma Coalition, Mercy Medical Center, Merced, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 16

- Bike to Work Day, Stockton and Bakersfield.

May 17

- Bike to Work Day, Modesto
- Bike to School Day, Visalia Unified High Schools

May 18

- Bike To Work Day, Merced

For more information on these events, visit: www.healthyairliving.com.



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