District opens EV charging station grant program

Businesses and public agencies can receive up to $6,000 per electric vehicle (EV) charging station through the new Charge Up! grant program.

Charge Up! awards up to $5,000 for a single-port, Level 2 charger and up to $6,000 for a two-port charger that will be available for public use. There is an annual funding cap of $50,000 per applicant, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. The first round of funding is $2 million.

“We're pleased to offer what Valley businesses, agencies and the public have asked for: convenient access to charging stations for the growing population of electric vehicles,” said Sheraz Gill, the District’s grants director.

The new grant program follows the District’s popular Drive Clean! clean-air vehicle rebate program, which offers up to $3,000 for the purchase of a qualifying battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell or plug-in electric hybrid vehicle.

This is not a rebate program; contracts must be executed before chargers are purchased and installed. Applications can be submitted online or in person. For complete information and application materials, visit www.valleyair.org/ChargeUp or call the District’s Grants Program at 559-230-5800.

Plus Up Program helps low-income families get cleaner vehicles

The California Air Resources Board is funding a retire-and-replace pilot program in the San Joaquin Valley to help low income families replace old, polluting cars with cleaner vehicles.

The air district-administered program provides incentives on a sliding scale, with larger cash payments for the lowest-income families moving up to the cleanest cars. Some families may qualify for as much as $12,000 toward the purchase of an all-electric car.

Qualifying residents may choose to replace their old vehicle with a more fuel-efficient conventional gasoline-powered car, a conventional hybrid, a plug-in hybrid or an EV. The range of grants for eligible consumers is between $2,500 and $12,000, depending on their income level and the type of replacement vehicle they choose. More details can be found by visiting www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/efmp_plus_up.pdf.

There is no application process for this program. Participants are chosen during a screening at Tune In & Tune Up emissions testing events which occur throughout the Valley. More information on Tune In & Tune Up events can be found by visiting www.valleyair.org/grants/pass.