

Chapter 7: Public Outreach and Legislative Efforts

Summary:

The District supplements regulatory control measures with a variety of programs, including collaboration with state entities, federal entities, and Valley businesses and residents. Such efforts communicate the extent of the Valley's air quality challenges as well as the opportunities for involvement in air quality improvements, helping to expedite public health benefits and the emissions reductions needed under both current and upcoming air quality standards.

The District continues to take the lead in advocating for Valley air quality issues at the state and federal levels. These efforts include continued requests for state and federal resources to reduce mobile source emissions; continued advocacy for air quality empowerment zone legislation; requests for the repeal of the CAA Section 185 penalty fees; and the pursuit for energy efficiency and alternative energy measures to reduce emissions in the Valley. This chapter will include a complete discussion of the District's legislative platform and policy initiatives that contribute to the District's goal of reducing PM_{2.5} emissions in the Valley.

The District has also developed comprehensive public outreach programs, providing meaningful opportunities for public input and involvement in District and Valley goals. For example, through the Real-Time Air Quality Advisory Network (RAAN), the District utilizes real-time data from air monitoring stations throughout the Valley to provide hourly air quality updates to schools and other subscribers, allowing for more informed decisions for outdoor activity planning. Through the Healthy Air Living program, the District provides tools that every Valley resident and business can use to make clean-air choices in their daily routines. The District's Check-Before-You-Burn program is a key component of the District's success in residential wood combustion curtailments under Rule 4901. This chapter will discuss these and other programs that contribute to the District's PM_{2.5} goals.