

Actions by the Governing Board – August 15, 2024

Accept and Appropriate \$1.2 Million in Additional Federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act Funding for Heavy-Duty Truck Replacements

The Governing Board accepted \$1,210,482 in federal funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to replace in-use higher polluting heavy-duty trucks with zero or near-zero emission trucks. In May 2021, the District was initially awarded \$2,789,518 in Federal funding under the US EPA highly competitive Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) fiscal year 2021 National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. In June 2024, EPA notified the District that \$1,210,482 in additional funding was available to further support this grant, bringing the total amount of this grant award to \$4,000,000. From the initial award of \$2,789,518, the District has provided funding to Valley fleets to replace 26 Class 7-8 heavy-duty trucks with new trucks equipped with zero or near-zero emission engine technology. This additional funding will help fund the replacement of approximately 5 additional older, high-polluting class 7-8 trucks with new trucks equipped with zero or near-zero emission engine technology. Combined with the initial grant award, the updated total award of \$4,000,000 is expected to result in the lifetime reduction of approximately 19.018 tons of NOx and 0.026 tons of PM.

Approve \$500 Thousand in Funding for Stockton Bike Lane Improvement Project and Authorize Agreement with Valley Clean Air Now for Residential Lawn Mower Exchange Event Administration for Assembly Bill 617 Communities

The Governing Board took action to approve \$500,000 in Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) funding for the Stockton AB 617 Bike Lane Improvement Project, and a \$200,000 agreement with Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN) to administer residential lawn mower exchange events in all four Valley-based AB 617 communities. The Stockton project will enhance bike lane safety and connectivity, reducing vehicle emissions. The plan new bike lanes will connect community schools and reduce vehicle miles traveled, which will help decrease emissions and improve accessibility in the community. The lawn mower exchange program, already underway in the Valley's four AB 617 communities, replaces polluting gas-powered mowers with free electric models for residents living within project boundaries. The District will leverage Valley CAN's expertise in managing large-scale, community-facing programs and transition administration of the lawn mower exchange events to Valley CAN. Integrating these events with their existing vehicle repair program, "Tune In Tune Up," Valley CAN will handle outreach, participant approvals, vendor coordination, and event logistics, reducing the administrative burden on the District.

Update on 2024 Wildfire Prevention and Response Efforts

The Governing Board received an update on the 2024 wildfire season including details on how wildfire emissions overwhelm all other air pollution emissions in the Valley, analysis of the 2024 wildfire season activity compared to past years, and detailed information on wildfires that had affected the Valley's air quality during the 2024 season. The Governing Board also heard that during the wildfire season, the District takes action to notify the public of when air quality impacts were occurring through issuing health cautionary statements and Air Quality Alerts issued through the National Weather Service. Staff also conveyed that real-time air quality data is available through EPA AirNow and the District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN). Staff highlighted the District's dedicated dynamic wildfire webpage and the numerous public calls and media requests to which staff quickly. An overview of the District's Clean Air Centers and Clean Air Rooms grant programs was also provided, detailing how Valley residents can participate in these programs to improve indoor air quality during wildfire episodes.

Update on State Implementation Plans and Approval of Air Quality Modeling Center Hardware Replacement

The Governing Board received an update regarding the status of attainment planning and implementation efforts to address the federal ambient air quality standards for PM2.5 and ozone, including ongoing EPA review of District/CARB plan submissions, contingency measures, maintenance plans, plan development for the 9.0 µg/m 3 annual PM2.5 standard, and the need for increased state and federal investments in support of transitions to clean air vehicles, equipment, and practices in the San Joaquin Valley to meet air quality goals. Additionally, to support this ongoing air quality planning and strategy development, the Governing Board appropriated funding to replace components and upgrade the District’s in-house state-of-the-art air quality modeling system, which provides critical support to establish air quality improvement strategies for ozone and PM2.5.

June District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In June, District staff hosted the Inaugural Community Clean Air Day. The goal of this event was to celebrate the work we have done together toward achieving cleaner air and fostering meaningful community engagement. Developed in collaboration with community members and stakeholders, this day allowed us to unite communities across the Valley and emphasize the importance of building strong relationships with residents, businesses, community groups, and agency partners.
- June 6th, the District hosted an Arvin/Lamont Lawnmower Trade-in Event where qualified residents were able to turn in their old lawnmowers and receive a free new electric cordless STIHL RMA 460 19” mower.
- In June, District staff responded to 15 media calls, 55 public calls, 17 emails, and participated in fifteen events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	June 2024	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB 617	Urban Greening	0	0	\$50,111.91
	Vegetative Barriers	0	0	\$27,714.74
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	89	\$340,450.00	\$87,050.00
CAP & Trade	Demonstration	1	\$2,064,999.00	\$501,835.23
Community Benefit	Residential	1,419	\$277,090.43	\$89,823.62
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	102	\$3,907,420.00	\$3,723,634.00
	Ag Engine	0	\$0.00	\$63,979.32
	Ag-UTV	68	\$916,222.18	\$228,724.11
	Dairy Feed Mixer	0	\$0.00	\$630,751.73
	Infrastructure	5	\$6,592,658.00	\$4,190,000.00

	Locomotive	0	\$0.00	\$1,467,992.39
	Off-Road	141	\$14,745,516.48	\$18,811,911.56
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	21	\$218,100.00	\$68,023.29
	Residential	236	\$67,780.81	\$15,847.59
Light Duty	Charge Up	0	\$0.00	\$132,000.00
	EFMP	444	\$6,163,341.20	\$2,059,341.20
	TITU	134	\$963,266.53	\$1,434,511.30
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	29	\$495,486.64	\$481,667.78
Technology Advancement	Technology Advancement - RFP	0	\$0.00	145,000.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement	3	\$1,141,587.86	\$1,160,000.00
	Totals	2,692	\$37,893,919.13	\$35,369,919.77

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
709	550	487	1,746

July District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In July, District staff encouraged public and private entities to participate in the District's Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program. Entities could apply for up to \$50 thousand for a drone or laser show in place of some or all of a large-scale fireworks display celebration during 4th of July, New Year's Eve or other celebratory public gatherings.
- Staff from the District, City of Shafter and Tree Foundation of Kern along with community volunteers planted 12 large box trees at Veterans Park in Shafter. Two weeks later, it was Fresno's turn. The tree planting team included staff from Tree Fresno, the District and numerous volunteers who planted 59 young trees at Computech Middle School. These trees not only contribute to each of the community's aesthetic appeal but also provide numerous environmental benefits, including improved air quality and climate resilience. In both communities, the respective Community Steering Committees (CSC) supported allocating funding for Urban Greening as a clean air measure that provides more tree canopy to reduce urban heat islands and provide a healthy environment for all residents.
- In July, District staff responded to 12 media calls, 52 public calls, 16 emails, and participated in one event/presentation.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	July 2024	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB 617	Urban Greening	0	0	\$24,333.30
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	96	\$356,550.00	\$195,150.00
Community Benefit	Alt to Fireworks	0	\$0.00	\$60,500.00
	Residential	113	\$22,065.51	\$209,329.44
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	126	\$3,818,040.00	\$3,545,072.92
	Ag Engine	3	\$517,881.44	\$38,810.27
	Ag-UTV	14	\$189,000.00	\$670,835.30
	Locomotive	0	\$0.00	\$1,126,104.98
	Off-Road	191	\$20,323,138.11	\$7,884,157.99
	On-Road	1	\$180,000.00	\$991,247.93
	On-Road Prop 1B	0	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
	School Bus	17	\$6,741,198.53	\$0.00
	Yard Truck	0	\$0.00	\$672,125.85
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	223	\$665,300.00	\$60,455.79
	Residential	96	\$21,472.62	\$71,472.77
Light Duty	Charge Up	7	\$185,000.00	\$95,850.00
	Drive Clean	142	\$418,000.00	\$0.00
	EFMP	371	\$4,535,657.87	\$2,093,836.48
	TITU	221	\$1,354,755.57	\$874,982.53
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	9	\$169,517.98	\$397,579.47
	Clean Air Centers	2	\$12,757.20	\$0.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement	4	\$1,600,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	1,636	\$41,110,334.83	\$19,211,845.02

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
707	503	451	1,661

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Sept. 19

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Oct. 1

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Oct. 24

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.

Details: www.valleyair.org

**Webcast*