

Actions by the Governing Board – Dec 19, 2024

Recognition of the 2025 Kids Calendar Winners

The Governing Board recognized fourteen students from around the San Joaquin Valley whose artwork is featured in the Valley Air District's 2025 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar. The District's annual calendar is a bilingual, full-color wall calendar, featuring clean-air messages and drawings, and is designed to educate and inspire the public to live a Healthy Air Life and reduce air pollution in the Valley. The calendars are free, and distributed to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches, civic organizations, non-profits, and individuals upon request, while supplies last. To request calendars for yourself, your classroom, school or other organization, email public.education@valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000. Calendars can also be picked up at any District office: in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Modesto, at 4800 Enterprise Way, and in Bakersfield, at 34936 Flyover Court.

Receive the Government Finance Officers' Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Governing Board received the Government Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). GFOA is an internationally recognized organization that offers guidance and support to budget and finance professionals across local and state governments throughout the United States and Canada. The GFOA presented the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting," GFOA's highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, to the District for its Fiscal Year 2022-23 ACFR. Receiving this award represents a significant recognition by an expert independent authority of your Board's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental reporting and transparency to the public, and excellence in exercising fiduciary responsibilities.

Update on AB 617 Implementation and Approve Expansion of Programs Benefitting Valley Communities

The Governing Board received an update on the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 617. The four Valley Community Emissions Reduction Programs (CERPs), developed in coordination with the communities of South Central Fresno, Shafter, Stockton and Arvin/Lamont, have led to significant emissions and exposure reductions. This year, the District worked with the Community Steering Committees to advance infrastructure projects, such as bike lanes in Stockton and road paving in Shafter, while implementing air monitoring and enforcement strategies to address community concerns. High-priority measures, including heavy-duty truck rerouting in South Central Fresno and pesticide monitoring in Arvin/Lamont, were actively pursued in collaboration with state and local agencies. As the five-year mark approaches for the first round of selected AB 617 communities, the District is transitioning to a quarterly meeting schedule, maintaining engagement while expanding efforts to support other disadvantaged communities in the Valley. The annual progress reports detail AB 617 progress across the Valley and were forwarded on to the California Air Resources Board as required by the program.

Additionally, the Board approved funding reallocations within the Board-approved CERPs to support of community priorities, including \$2,000,000 in the Shafter CERP to replace low-dust nut harvesters. In South Central Fresno, \$1,200,000 was shifted from the Underfired Charbroiler Technology Measure to fund urban greening projects, and up to \$4,559,660 was reallocated from the Public Fleet Vehicles Measure to support residential vehicle replacements. Additionally, eligibility for residential air filtration measures was expanded to include daycare and elderly care facilities in AB 617 communities.

Approve up to \$111, 180 in Technology Advancement Program Funding for Zero Emission Transport Refrigeration Unit Demonstration and Validation Project

The Valley Air district Governing Board approved up to \$111,180 in Technology Advancement Program funding for an innovative zero-emission Transport Refrigeration Unit (TRU) demonstration and validation project in partnership with Range Energy and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). This project aims to quantify the potential of battery-electric TRUs, leveraging telematics and validation in real-world fleet operations. In particular, the Project will validate the operation and use of Range Energy's electric-powered trailer system, which allows TRUs to operate on clean, electric power, and support efforts to develop viable technologies for use by fleets in the Valley and throughout the state. Range Energy's electric-powered trailer system is designed to be flexible and can provide power for new electric TRUs, or reduce emissions from existing diesel fleets by reducing diesel fuel consumed by heavy-duty trucks. In the San Joaquin Valley, Range Energy will partner with a local produce delivery company, located in the South-Central Fresno AB 617 community and has identified routes between Fresno and Bakersfield for testing and validation of this equipment. The total anticipated budget for this project is \$741,200, which does not include \$965,000 in costs incurred by Range energy for the parts and labor to build the electric trailer. The SJVAPCD and SCAQMD will each contribute up to \$111,180 (15%) to the demonstration project. Range Energy, Thermo King and Nuuve would be responsible for the remaining project costs.

Accept and Appropriate \$30 Million in Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Funding for the Statewide Incentive Program for Zero-Emission Transit, School and Shuttle Bus Replacements

The Governing Board accepted and appropriated \$30,000,000 in additional funding from the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust (Mitigation Trust) for the Statewide Incentive Program for Zero-Emission Transit, School and Shuttle buses to replace transit, school and shuttle buses throughout California. CARB was designated as the lead agency to act on behalf of the State of California in implementing California's allocation of the Mitigation Trust. Based on the District's reputation for administering effective and efficient voluntary incentive programs, CARB sought the District's assistance to administer \$130,000,000 in funding from the Mitigation Trust for the replacement of older, higher polluting transit, school and shuttle buses with cleaner technology. The South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District were also approached to administer the remaining categories. In 2018, the Board approved the District to serve as administrator of the Statewide Incentive Program for Zero-Emission Transit, School and Shuttle buses. Since that time, the District has fully allocated the available project funding to eligible bus replacement projects throughout California. On October 9, 2024, CARB staff met with administering air districts to discuss priorities for allocating earned interest, as California's portion of the trust has accumulated over \$40 million to date. During the discussions, CARB highlighted the limited funding opportunities for transit and shuttle bus programs statewide and substantial oversubscription of the District's program. Consequently, CARB allocated \$30,000,000 of the earned interest to the District to fund existing eligible transit and shuttle bus projects currently in the queue. The remaining \$10,000,000 in earned interest will be allocated to the South Coast Air Quality Management District to repower or replace switcher locomotives with zero-emission technology statewide.

Accept and Appropriate \$8 Million in Additional Funding From the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Replacement of Class 6 and 7 On-Road Trucks with Zero-Emission Units and Associated Charging Infrastructure

The Governing Board accepted \$8.9 million in federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency for the replacement of Class 6 and 7 on-road trucks with battery powered zero-emission units. This funding was awarded in response to the District's proposal

through EPA’s Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant solicitation. This funding will support the deployment of 26 trucks throughout the Valley and, as necessary, the associated electrical charging infrastructure. Project partners include the City of Modesto, Mission Linen, Fresno Unified School District, and the City of Ceres. This project is expected to reduce 577 tons of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life of the project. In addition, the project is anticipated to support the local deployment of Class 6/7 zero-emission trucks in the Valley, improve the understanding of fleet dynamics when deploying a large number of zero-emission trucks and associated infrastructure, support zero-emission Class 6/7 manufacturers in realizing economics of scale and to provide zero-emission workforce development and fleet operator training.

November District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In November, the Valley Air District promoted the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Program to help reduce wood smoke in neighborhoods. Residents were reminded to check with the Valley Air District for their county’s daily residential burn status before using a wood-burning fireplace indoors or a fire pit outdoors. The burn status can be found at valleyair.org/burnstatus, on the Valley Air app, or by calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463). Additionally, the District emphasized that burning trash is always illegal. Homes without another source of heat or access to piped-in natural gas (including those using propane) are exempt from these restrictions. Cooking fires on designated cooking devices are also exempt. However, outdoor non-cooking wood-burning devices at all residences must still follow the daily restrictions, regardless of exemption status.
- The District also promoted the Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out program. The program offers incentives up to \$5,000. To take advantage of the incentives, residents can visit valleyair.org/change-out.
- In November, District staff responded to 8 media calls, 32 public calls, 19 emails, and participated in nine events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	November 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	\$0.00	\$44,281.18
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	309	\$1,129,250.00	\$157,171.04
Community Benefit	Alt to Fireworks	0	\$0.00	\$160,900.00
	Residential	1,477	\$288,414.09	\$210,109.20
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	130	\$4,580,210.00	\$4,044,670.00
	Ag-UTV	65	\$877,500.00	\$248,324.76
	Infrastructure	1	\$7,191,750.00	\$1,182,105.00
	Off-Road	82	\$8,468,681.70	\$18,869,513.26
	On-Road	1	\$84,650.00	\$0.00
	School Bus	22	\$6,873,675.25	\$486,631.40
	Yard Truck	0	\$0.00	\$280,418.00
	Commercial	119	\$422,900.00	\$383,094.36

Lawn & Garden	Residential	289	\$25,535.64	\$21,106.80
Light Duty	Charge Up	13	\$535,000.00	\$346,625.00
	Drive Clean	449	\$1,326,000.00	\$1,321,000.00
	EFMP	268	\$3,533,902.93	\$2,208,902.93
	TITU	182	\$973,945.73	\$1,564,609.18
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	12	\$221,747.10	\$706,537.12
Special Projects	Infrastructure	2	\$55,008,095.91	\$0.00
VW Nox Mitigation	Replacement	3	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	3,424	\$92,741,258.35	\$32,235,999.23

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
538	623	501	1,662

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9:00 AM, Dec. 19

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10:00 AM, Jan. 7

Environmental Justice Advisory Group
5:30 PM, Jan. 23

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.
Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast