

## Actions by the Governing Board – Mar. 19, 2026

### Accept and Appropriate up to \$1 Million in Funding From the Tulare County Association of Governments to support District Incentive Programs Within Tulare County

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted up to \$1,000,000 in funding from the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) to support several District grant programs within Tulare County. For the past several years, TCAG has worked closely with the District on shared goals and initiatives. This partnership builds on past efforts to improve air quality within the Valley and, specifically in Tulare County. Over the past year, TCAG and the District have worked together to identify the specific incentive programs to be supported and determine the appropriate mechanism for funding. In December 2025, TCAG approved this funding partnership with the District in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to be used to support several District incentive programs for projects located within Tulare County. These programs include: the Tune In Tune Up Vehicle Repair Program, Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program and the Charge Up! Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Program.

### Discussion and Next Steps on Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy and Report on 2025-2026 Winter Season Air Quality

The Valley Air District Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2025-2026 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. This was the seventh season implemented under the 2019 amendments to the residential wood-burning rule, which significantly increased the number of no-burn days in the Hot Spot counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kern. As described in more detail below, the Valley achieved the following PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality milestones during the 2025-2026 winter season:

- Low average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations across Valley counties.
- Continued attainment of federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 93% of days during the winter season experienced air quality meeting federal 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- Maintained continued progress in increasing number of “Good” and “Moderate” Air Quality Index (AQI) days across all of the counties in the District.
- Zero days across all counties measured “Unhealthy” AQI or above.
- Even though the 2025-2026 season experienced strong atmospheric stability for a majority of November, December, and January, the season average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration was improved compared to other winter seasons with similar stability.
- During the 2025-2026 winter season, only one (1) exceedance of the 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> standard occurred in November, marking a record low for November. Additionally, the month of December only measured four (4) exceedances of this standard, marking a significant improvement compared to recent seasons.
- Winter season PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation analysis shows that air quality has greatly improved for key components (ammonium nitrate and organic carbon) of PM<sub>2.5</sub> as a result of the District’s Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy, Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out incentive program, and other air quality improvement strategies.
- Due to improved air quality, first time issuing zero “No Burning for All” declarations in Non-Hot Spot Counties.

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out grant program, with over \$3.5 million in funding for over 900 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2025-26. Since 2009, the District has issued over 32,200 vouchers for an allocation of over \$71 million.

This past winter saw another successful outreach campaign implemented with an increased emphasis on health impacts of wood smoke through messaging within paid advertisements, educational videos, social media and other outreach opportunities. Valley residents expressing significant interest in residential wood burning and air quality with over 189,000 visits to the District's daily curtailment status webpage, over 23,000 calls to the District's 1-800-SMOG-INFO number, and over 260 complaints for suspected wood burning activity. The success of this past winter season would not have been possible without the commitment from Valley residents to reduce their wood burning emissions, coupled with the District's multi-faceted program that utilizes wood burning curtailments, incentives, public education/outreach, and strong enforcement to reduce wood smoke.

### **Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fan-Type Central Furnaces)**

The Governing Board adopted amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural gas-fired, Fan-type Central Furnaces), which regulates NO<sub>x</sub> through a point-of-sale standard. The rule previously lowered the NO<sub>x</sub> emission limit from 40 ng/J to 14 ng/J, with phased compliance provisions. While manufacturers have developed compliant technologies for all furnace types, challenges remain for units used in manufactured homes. The amendment extends the emission fee period from 2025 to 2030 for the manufactured home category to allow additional time for compliant technology development.

## **February District Activities**

### **Outreach and Communications**

- In February, during the 2026 World Ag Expo in Tulare, District staff connected with thousands of attendees over the three-day event. Farmers, agricultural professionals, students, and community members visited the District's booth to learn more about innovative farming practices that help improve air quality across the region.

District staff engaged directly with visitors to showcase available resources, tools, and grant programs designed to support sustainable agriculture and reduce emissions. Attendees also received informational handouts on agriculture related initiatives, along with air quality themed activity booklets, calendars, and other educational materials. The event provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen partnerships, raise awareness, and highlight the District's ongoing commitment to clean air and a healthy Valley.

- District staff continued its active engagement across the Valley through a variety of educational and community focused efforts. Staff participated in multiple County and school STEAM Fair Expos, connecting with students and families to promote air quality awareness through interactive and informative activities. The Outreach team also spent time on campuses throughout the Valley delivering air quality presentations, providing students and parents with a deeper understanding of air pollution, its impacts on health, and actions they can take to help improve local air quality.

Outreach efforts also included supporting and attending community events across the region, offering resources, educational materials, and information about District programs. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to connect with residents, answer questions, and reinforce the District's mission to improve air quality and protect public health throughout the Valley.

- In February, District staff responded to 1 media calls, 38 public calls, 16 emails, and participated in eighteen events/presentations.

## Grants and Incentive Programs

	February 2026	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
<b>AB617</b>	Car Sharing	0	\$0.00	\$40,195.80
	Urban Greening	1	\$550,000.00	\$9,833.83
<b>Burn Cleaner</b>	Wood Stove Change Out	136	\$506,700.00	\$426,041.46
<b>Community Benefit</b>	Alt to Fireworks	0	\$0.00	\$45,750.00
	Residential	99	\$21,346.38	\$26,166.02
<b>Commuter Subsidy</b>	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Heavy-Duty</b>	Ag Burn Alternative	164	\$5,686,772.55	\$3,533,152.41
	Dairy Feed Mixer	0	\$0.00	\$428,144.08
	Forklift	0	\$0.00	\$225,023.42
	Infrastructure	1	\$1,915,527.00	\$0.00
	Low-Dust Harvester	4	\$704,009.92	\$711,046.67
	Off-Road	51	\$4,300,381.26	\$11,097,832.55
	On-Road	0	\$0.00	\$1,136,179.04
	School Bus	4	\$477,353.91	\$796,743.64
<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	Commercial	129	\$384,600.00	\$460,567.41
	Residential	101	\$11,263.76	\$17,561.54
<b>Legal Entity</b>	SubContractor / Partner	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Light Duty</b>	Charge Up	1	\$40,000.00	\$250,000.00
	Drive Clean	81	\$160,919.29	\$586,919.29
	EFMP	95	\$1,227,969.77	\$2,539,261.64
	TITU	211	\$904,109.28	\$1,040,817.75
<b>Public Benefit</b>	Alternative Fuel	0	\$0.00	\$853,376.45
<b>REMOVE II</b>	Alternate Fuel Training	5	\$42,000.00	\$0.00
<b>VW Nox Mitigation</b>	Replacement	0	\$0.00	\$2,159,999.59
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>\$16,932,953.12</b>	<b>\$26,386,612.59</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
409	553	470	1,448

## Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board\*

Citizens Advisory Committee\*

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

9:00 AM, Apr. 16

10:00 AM, May 5

5:30 PM, Apr. 23

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

*Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)*

*\*Webcast*