

Actions by the Governing Board – Mar 20, 2025

Received Three Awards Presented to the District at the Fresno State Transportation Institute 2025 Step Summit

The staff announced three awards received at the 2025 Sustainable Transportation Energy Progress Summit, held March 7 at Valdez Hall in Fresno. The summit, hosted by the Fresno State Transportation Institute, convened leaders in policy, engineering, and advocacy to explore innovations in sustainable transportation, with a focus on hydrogen, biofuels, and electrification. The District played an active role, participating as expert panelists and hosting an informational booth on clean air initiatives. Its efforts were honored across three key categories. The Project Award recognized the GRO CER Project—a partnership with OK Produce that deployed over 50 zero-emission Class 8 electric trucks and supporting infrastructure, setting a standard for clean freight transportation. The Business/Organization Award celebrated the District's leadership in advancing sustainable transportation policies and securing \$7.2 billion in funding for clean technology. Additionally, the Individual Award was presented to Executive Director Samir Sheikh for his leadership in emissions reduction and advocating for the Valley's access to clean transportation investments. These honors reflect the District's continued dedication to innovation, collaboration, and cleaner air for Valley communities.

Provided Update on Cybersecurity Audit of the District's Information System Infrastructure

Staff presented the results of an IT security audit that was authorized in June 2024. The approved comprehensive cybersecurity audit of the District's technology infrastructure was performed by an independent consulting firm. The audit aimed to assess compliance, identify vulnerabilities, and improve security practices to mitigate risks. The cybersecurity audit was completed by Securance Consulting in late 2024, and revealed that the District's systems generally have strong controls and security measures, particularly with its internet presence which is well-protected from cyber threats. Compared to similar audits in other air pollution control organizations, the district exhibits a stronger cybersecurity posture. It was noted that an opportunity for improvement was identified in enhancing the security of the internal network. This area is already being addressed with plans to upgrade technologies and deploy additional tools to fortify systems and maintain high levels of security.

Reviewed New District Public Website

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement and public service, the District unveiled a redesigned public website. In a presentation to the Governing Board, staff outlined the new website's enhanced accessibility, efficiency, and user experience. Built on a modern content management system, the platform empowers staff across departments to quickly update content, ensuring timely and accurate information during critical events like wildfire smoke episodes. The site features intuitive navigation, improved search functionality, full mobile responsiveness, and enhanced accessibility tools, including language translation options. It also incorporates a direct link to AirNow.gov, giving users an additional option to check their local air quality. These updates make it easier for residents, businesses, and community members to interact with the District—whether they're checking air quality, filing complaints, or applying for clean air incentives. With its fresh design and modern infrastructure, the new website reflects the District's dedication to innovation, transparency, and equitable service for all Valley stakeholders. Check it out at www.valleyair.org.

Approved Up to \$20 Million in Funding to Support the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted and appropriated up to \$20,000,000 in additional funding for the District's Drive Clean in the San Joaquin Vehicle Replacement Program. Since 2011, the District has partnered with Valley CAN to administer the successful Tune In Tune Up Vehicle

Repair Program and the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program in a coordinated effort to assist Valley residents. The vehicle replacement program provides Valley residents with up to \$12,000 in incentive funding to replace their old vehicles with newer, cleaner vehicles. The action taken by the Governing Board included accepting up to an additional \$15,200,000 in CARB funding (a combination of Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program funding and statewide Carl Moyer Program State Reserve funding) and authorized up to \$4,800,000 in local District funding to provide the required match for this new state funding. In total, this new funding will allow the District to re-open the program to new applications for a period of one to two months, based on demand. Staff anticipates that this funding will result in up to 1,400 additional vehicle replacement projects.

February District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In February, District staff connected with 2025 World Ag Expo attendees, farmers, ag professionals and students at the World Ag Expo in Tulare. During the three-day annual event, District staff answered questions about grant programs and distributed brochures and handouts about ag-related programs, air quality activity booklets, calendars, and more. The District's presence helped raise awareness about available resources while strengthening relationships with the agricultural community.
- On February 8, District staff hosted a successful Lawnmower Exchange event in Arvin, providing residents within the AB 617 community boundary an opportunity to replace their old gas-powered lawnmowers with new, zero-emission electric models. This initiative, part of the District's Clean Green Yard Machines program, aims to reduce air pollution by encouraging the use of cleaner lawn care equipment. To learn more about the program visit, valleyair.org/CGYM.
- In February, District staff responded to 4 media calls, 27 public calls, 16 emails, and participated in fourteen events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	February 2025	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB 617	Road Paving	2	\$6,382,630.00	\$0.00
	Urban Greening	0	\$0.00	\$54,533.89
	Vegetative Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$26,424.88
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	150	\$537,250.00	\$514,225.33
Community Benefit	Residential	182	\$35,539.14	\$24,018.03
Commuter Subsidy	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	\$0.00	\$2,750.00
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	133	\$4,695,568.81	\$5,605,435.73
	Ag-UTV	9	\$121,500.00	\$876,225.75
	Forklift	7	\$282,727.97	\$0.00
	Infrastructure	0	\$0.00	\$448,226.00
	Off-Road	86	\$9,534,449.06	\$10,176,408.52

	On-Road	5	\$440,832.38	\$0.00
	Yard Truck	8	\$1,175,048.80	\$0.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	335	\$984,616.92	\$327,924.82
	Residential	659	\$247,407.21	\$391,215.13
Legal Entity	SubContractor/Partner	1	\$0.00	\$11,812.50
Light Duty	Charge Up	19	\$647,000.00	\$161,999.56
	Drive Clean	1	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
	EFMP	554	\$7,039,869.47	\$3,329,354.97
	TITU	212	\$1,034,578.84	\$933,661.11
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	25	\$413,665.50	\$1,277,118.31
	Clean Air Centers	1	\$3,204.12	\$0.00
REMOVE II	Alternate Fuel Training	3	\$27,000.00	\$0.00
Special Projects	Infrastructure	0	\$0.00	\$10,576.39
VW Nox Mitigation	Replacement	3	\$1,200,00.00	\$3,200,000.00
Totals		2,395	\$34,805,888.22	\$27,377,910.92

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
423	423	370	1,219

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9:00 AM, Apr. 17

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10:00 AM, May 6

Environmental Justice Advisory Group
5:30 PM, Apr. 24

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

Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast