

## Actions by the Governing Board – April 17, 2025

### The 2024 Annual Report to the Community

The purpose of the Annual Report to the Community is to provide Valley residents with a detailed account of the District's operations in the preceding year. In contrast to the many detailed, highly scientific and technical reports that are regularly published by the District, this report outlines the District's goals, objectives, legal obligations, and actions in a more concise and easy to follow format for the general public. At the April Governing Board meeting, the Board provided comments and feedback on the 2024 report. The report details the milestone clean air year for air quality, current regulatory challenges faced by the District and the extensive growth in the District's emissions reduction incentive programs, reviews the accomplishments of the past year and highlights key issues faced by Valley with regard to air quality. Once finalized, the report will be translated into Spanish and copies will be available online at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and as printed hardcopies upon request.

### Report on 2024-2025 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy

The Valley Air District Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2024-2025 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. This was the sixth 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 2024-2025 winter season:

- Maintained 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>.
- Achieved a record low number of November days when Valley counties exceeded 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> – a 97% improvement compared to levels recorded during the early years of PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring in the Valley.
- Overall, 93% of Valley days during the winter season met 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 counties in the District.
- Winter season PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation analysis shows that air quality has greatly improved for key components of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Ammonium Nitrate and Organic Carbon) as a result of the District's comprehensive Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy, Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out incentive program, and other air quality improvement strategies.

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out grant program, with over \$3.6 million in funding for nearly 1,000 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2024-25. Since 2009, the District has issued over 31,500 vouchers for an allocation of over \$69 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 230,000 visits to the District's daily curtailment status webpage, over 30,000 calls to the District's 1-800-SMOG-INFO number, and over 270 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.

## March District Activities

### Outreach and Communications

- In March, District staff partnered with PepsiCo, the California Air Resources Board, and the California Energy Commission to award a \$13 million grant supporting the deployment of 50 zero-emission, battery-electric Tesla Semi trucks. This initiative also includes the development of essential charging infrastructure, advancing our shared commitment to clean transportation and a more sustainable future.
- In March, District staff celebrated Department of Pesticide Regulation's launch of SprayDays California system and shared the news with all AB 617 CSC's. This tool allows California residents to look up information about the scheduled applications of specific pesticides, referred to as restricted material pesticides, that are used on farms.
- In March, District staff responded to 4 media calls, 29 public calls, 10 emails, and participated in fifteen events/presentations.

### Grants and Incentive Programs

Key	March 2025	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
<b>AB 617</b>	Urban Greening	0	\$0.00	\$18,449.68
<b>Burn Cleaner</b>	Wood Stove Change Out	162	\$608,300.00	\$1,172,376.35
<b>Community Benefit</b>	Residential	216	\$42,178.32	\$0.00
<b>Heavy-Duty</b>	Ag Burn Alternative	113	\$4,190,720.00	\$6,665,166.42
	Ag Engine	1	\$79,890.00	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV	10	\$135,000.00	\$517,416.52
	Dairy Feed Mixer	1	\$1,511,663.60	\$0.00
	Forklift	11	\$609,150.75	\$0.00
	Low-Dust Harvester	0	\$0.00	\$593,353.92
	Off-Road	124	\$11,320,442.32	\$9,124,814.03
	On-Road	1	\$88,750.00	\$338,681.00
	School Bus	0	\$0.00	\$4,400,000.00
<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	Commercial	74	\$116,900.00	\$79,632.35
	Residential	198	\$27,433.90	\$24,355.98
<b>Light Duty</b>	Charge Up	4	\$113,000.00	\$95,000.00
	EFMP	582	\$6,984,446.37	\$5,363,509.45
	TITU	227	\$1,094,374.28	\$1,209,148.04
<b>Public Benefit</b>	Alternative Fuel	1	\$20,000.00	\$869,264.83
	Clean Air Centers	11	\$48,355.55	\$0.00
<b>VW Nox Mitigation</b>	Replacement	0	\$0.00	\$3,200,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>\$27,261,338.41</b>	<b>\$33,671,168.57</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
376	358	301	1,040

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***

9:00 AM, May 15

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***

10:00 AM, Jun. 3

**Environmental Justice Advisory Group**

5:30 PM, Jun. 26

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