

Actions by the Governing Board – Feb 20, 2025

Authorize Submittal of Clean Data Determination Request to EPA for 15 Microgram Annual PM 2.5 Standard

On February 20, 2025, the Valley Air District Governing Board authorized the APCO to submit a Clean Data Determination request to EPA (upon final data certification) demonstrating that the District now meets the national annual PM_{2.5} standard of 15 µg/m³. Both the District and CARB have implemented generations of emissions control measures for stationary, area, and mobile sources resulting in the nation's toughest air pollution emissions controls, supported by over \$7.2 billion in public/private grants funding, resulting in record-clean air quality data for the 2022-2024 period. The Board also received an update on the next steps needed to officially be redesignated to attainment of this standard, including the preparation of a maintenance plan and redesignation request.

Approve Enhancements to the District's Low Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved several enhancements to the District's Low Dust Nut Harvester Replacement Program. Since 2018, this Program has provided over \$23.6 million in federal state and local incentive funding to replace more than 270 pieces of harvesting equipment with new, low-dust equipment. This effort has resulted in emission reductions of 1,665 tons of fugitive PM, 423 tons of NO_x and 32 tons of diesel combustion PM. Despite these successes, participation in the program has declined due to a variety of reasons, including reduced demand for almonds, resulting in lower almond prices in recent years. As a result, growers have been less likely to invest in new, low-emission harvesting technology. To ensure robust participation in this important program, the Governing Board approved increases in the maximum incentive level (from 50% to 75% of eligible costs), an increase in funding for low dust harvesters (from \$150,000 to 250,000) and the elimination of the funding cap for new dual-purpose, combination harvesting units that increase efficiency and further reduce emissions by combining activities such as shaking and sweeping in a single pass.

Air District Efforts to Protect Valley Residents from Toxic Emissions

In addition to numerous efforts aimed at reducing ozone and particulate emissions throughout the Valley, the District also devotes significant resources and implements comprehensive strategies to further reduce toxic air pollutants. The District's Governing Board received a detailed report on efforts by the District and authorized District staff to distribute the report to county boards of supervisors, city councils, and local health officers. The District's integrated air toxics program integrates local, state and federal measures to prevent localized air toxic hot spots, reduce regional air toxic risk from various source categories and prevent significant risk to the public from new and expanding facilities. As noted in the report, the District has completed the reassessment of more than 7,500 facilities to date, none of which pose a significant risk to residents of the Valley. Through these efforts, Valley residents have benefitted from a significant reduction in cancer risk due to air toxics during the last two decades. For more details, the District's Annual Air Toxics Report for the Year 2024 is available on the District's website.

January District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In January, District staff visited local service organizations to provide updates on current air quality progress and share available grants and resources. The presentations included health impacts, explanation of pollutants, progress to date, and examples of how residents can

make one change. By engaging directly with local organizations, the District ensured that valuable information reached those who could take action and share with the rest of the community.

- As part of the District’s ongoing effort to mitigate poor indoor air quality due to wildfires, District staff promoted the Clean Air Rooms Program. Eligible first-time applicants residing within the boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley, specifically those in disadvantaged and low-income communities, have the opportunity to participate and receive a free air purifier shipped directly to their home. To learn more about this program, visit valleyair.org/roompurifier.
- In January, District staff responded to 10 media calls, 16 public calls, 104 emails, and participated in eight events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	January 2025	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB 617	Urban Greening	1	\$1,000,000.00	\$13,960.72
	Vegetative Barriers	1	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	279	\$1,016,400.00	\$605,128.00
Community Benefit	Residential	1	\$195.27	\$288,607.22
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	158	\$5,089,777.50	\$5,775,410.00
	Ag-UTV	15	\$202,500.00	\$337,139.61
	Forklift	20	\$1,730,757.05	\$0.00
	Off-Road	123	\$11,458,017.86	\$14,192,998.94
	School Bus	0	\$0.00	\$400,000.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	63	\$217,900.00	\$151,327.12
	Residential	531	\$161,521.28	\$22,249.38
Legal Entity	SubContractor/Partner	1	\$0.00	\$3,375.00
Light Duty	Charge Up	0	\$0.00	\$184,999.95
	Drive Clean	3	\$9,000.00	\$65,000.00
	EFMP	392	\$5,130,510.44	\$3,342,861.52
	TITU	250	\$1,133,975.51	\$1,175,235.75
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	0	\$0.00	\$326,913.72
	Clean Air Centers	0	\$0.00	\$10,716.75
REMOVE II	Alternate Fuel Training	5	\$39,000.00	\$0.00
VW Nox Mitigation	Replacement	0	\$0.00	\$592,000.00
	Totals	1,843	\$28,189,554.91	\$27,487,923.68

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
596	672	552	1,820

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9:00 AM, Mar. 20

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10:00 AM, Apr. 1

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*