

Highlights

District Activities for September 2005



September 15, 2005 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board approved the **2005 Edition of the Air Quality Guidelines for General Plans**. First approved in 1994, the Guidelines are a resource for cities and counties to use in addressing air quality in their general plans. The Guidelines were updated to include necessary technical updates, new air quality data, changes in air quality regulations and programs, new references where available, new charts, graphs and photographs and recent development examples to illustrate the strategies.

The Guidelines will assist cities in counties in complying with AB170 (Reyes) that requires San Joaquin Valley cities and counties to prepare air quality amendments to their general plans containing goals, policies and objectives to improve air quality.

- The Board received and filed the following items and will consider them for adoption during the Oct. 20 meeting:
 - Proposed amendments to the **2004 Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan**
 - **New Rule 3135 (Dust Control Plan Fee)**
 - **New Rule 4308 (Small Boilers, Steam Generators, Process Heaters - 0.075 MMBtu/hr to 2.0 MMBtu/hr)**
 - **New Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired Fan Type Residential Central Furnaces)**

New and Upcoming Rules

Proposed Rule 9510, Decreasing Emissions' Significant Impact from Growth and New Development (**DESIGN**) is expected to be considered for adoption at the Nov. 17, 2005, Governing Board meeting. The draft rule would require commercial, industrial and residential developments expected to create at least two tons per year of certain types of pollution to reduce their emissions by 50 percent. DESIGN would encourage developers to reduce as many emissions as possible through on-site mitigation, such as making the developments bicycle- and walker-friendly; designing energy-efficient buildings; incorporating mass transit; offering telecommuting and video-conferencing; and other measures. If more emission reductions still were needed, the developers would purchase mitigation off-site through Air District incentive programs that fund projects such as upgrading fleets to low-emission vehicles; e-mobility; bicycle infrastructure; public transportation subsidies; and a planned vehicle-scrapping program. The DESIGN rule would reduce Valley emissions by more than 10 tons per day by the year 2010.

Update on Federal Ozone Standards

As of Sept. 6, monitoring stations throughout the Valley air basin had recorded 63 days on which the federal eight-hour ozone standard was violated. Last year as of that date, the air basin already had logged 89 violation days and ended the year with 109 violations. From 2000 through 2003, the Valley recorded between 103 and 134 violation days per year. Also as of Sept. 6, the maximum concentration seen this year was 0.11 parts per million, compared to last year's high of 0.13 parts per million.

For the federal one-hour standard, the air basin continued its pace of improvement with eight days of violations as of Sept. 6, 2005, versus seven days in 2004. The peak concentration was lower this year: 0.14 parts per million, compared to 0.16 parts per million in 2004, despite a record 21 days in a row of

100-degree temperatures in parts of the Valley. The air basin ended 2004 with nine violations of the one-hour standard. From 2000 through 2003, the Valley recorded between 30 and 37 one-hour violation days per year.

PM10 Plan Workshop Held

An August 30 workshop discussed the development of the 2006 PM10 Plan. The Plan, which is a requirement under EPA approval of the 2003 PM10 Plan, will contain the latest available data to ensure that the District will attain the annual and 24-hour federal PM10 standards by 2010. A workshop based on a draft of the 2006 PM10 Plan will be held in October.

Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

- In August, the District responded to 151 media inquires and 99 public calls. Three press releases were disseminated on Reg. VIII, Operation Clean Air and the Dairy Emission Factor. District staff also helped spread awareness about air quality issues through public outreach activities in Clovis, Fresno and Bakersfield.
- Sampling for the District's **2005 Marketing Research Project** is underway in all regions. Results from the 600 interviews, expected in the fall, will help direct the District's media campaigns, set educational priorities and determine what residents know and what behavioral changes are they willing to make.
- **Spare the Air** is winding down with just a few weeks left until the end of the season Sept. 30. The current number of days logged District-wide stands at 18, compared to 27 days called District-wide in 2004. The county totals as of Sept. 15 were:
 - Fresno, Tulare and Kern 18 days
 - Kings 12 days
 - Merced 11 days
 - Madera and Stanislaus 9 days
 - San Joaquin 6 days
- **Senate Bill 999** (Machado), that would have altered the makeup of the District's Governing Board, did not move forward before this year's legislative session ended. The author has indicated that it will be a two-year bill.
- **Assembly Bill 728** passed the Senate and was sent to the Governor for his signature. This digester net metering bill will continue existing utility rate incentives for the installation and use of energy-recovery systems (digesters) that both reduce air pollution emissions and provide electricity. The District believes that many dairies could benefit from the special utility rates contained in this bill.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- 35 Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications were received as of Sept. 8 for a total of 251 engines.
- \$712,489 in REMOVE II grant funds was placed under contract in August for qualifying projects.
- \$111,263 was paid out in Claims for Payment in August.

Upcoming Meetings

2005 Citizens Advisory Committee Schedule – Meetings begin at 10 a.m.
October 4, 2005 November 1, 2005 December 6, 2005

2005 Governing Board Schedule – Meetings begin at 9 a.m.
October 20, 2005 November 17, 2005 December 15, 2005