

Highlights

District Activities for April 2006



April 20, 2006 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted administrative amendments to **Rule 4702 (Internal Combustion Engines - Phase 2)** and **Rule 4307 (Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters - 2.0 MMBtu/hr to 5.0 MMBtu/hr)**. The amendments were limited to three administrative issues: first, to allow applicants more time to submit applications; second, to change the name of Rule 2250 from "Stationary Equipment Registration" to "Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration;" and third, to remove a reference to Rule 2250 in one section of Rule 4307. These amendments do not change any emissions reduction requirements of the previous versions of the rules.
- The Governing Board approved an agreement with Vermont-based electric lawnmower company, Neuton, for the 2006 **Clean Green Yard Machine** program. Through \$131,546 in sponsorships from partners Valley CAN, Operation Clean Air and the Air Resources Board, the District will offer a 60% discount on 1,200 Neuton cordless electric mowers at trade-in events in five Valley communities, up from three last year. Valley residents who trade in their old gas mowers can purchase the electric model for the discounted price of \$150. Events are scheduled May 20 to June 24 in Bakersfield, Visalia, Fresno, Merced and Stockton.
- The Governing Board received and filed amendments to **Rule 43521 (Solid Fuel Fired Boilers, Steam Generators and Process Heaters)** and **Rule 4603 (Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products)** and set May 18 for a public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Governing Board received and filed the District's **Annual Air Toxics Report** and authorized staff to distribute it to the public as well as county boards of supervisors, city councils and local health officers.
- The Governing Board signed a contract renewal with Jeffrey/Scott Advertising for \$408,750 to implement comprehensive, bilingual **media outreach campaigns** in 2006-07 for the Spare the Air and Wood-burning Curtailment seasons.
- The Governing Board adopted a **formal policy for public comment** at Board meetings. Members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item will now have three minutes per speaker for both scheduled items and during the public comment period. The Chair has the discretion to waive the three-minute limit.

Public Relations, Legislative, Outreach and Education

Public Information responded to 65 news media inquiries and 88 public calls in March. The District issued four news releases concerning the upcoming Confined Animal Facility rule, the Natural Event Action Plan and the event called March 7, the new APCO/Executive Director announcement and the success of the CMPs and pending PM10 attainment. Staff also attended to eight outreach events in all three regions.

To help upper grade students understand air pollution, teachers from many District middle and high schools that use the “Clean Air Challenge” curriculum received an annual update. A working miniature model of a hydrogen vehicle to use for class experiments was a big hit, as was the revised curriculum.

Grants and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received **29** Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications in March for a total of **73** engines. The District has received **199** applications to date for a total of **728** engines.
- **\$419,891** in heavy-duty component REMOVE II grant funds was placed under contract in March.
- **\$1,233,298** was paid out in Heavy-Duty Program component claims in March.

AG Engines - 18 -	\$446,537
Off Road - 7	\$564,693
On-Road - 2	\$212,068

Operation Overview

- **Compliance** conducted 1,224 inspections in March and issued 93 NOVs. 276 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 352 applications issued 370 permits in March.
- **Planning** received 273 environmental documents and held 9 rule and plan workshops in March. 68 smoking vehicles were reported.

Other District News

District staff members will be among the presenters at a **May 17 symposium** in Fresno. The District is co-hosting “Central California Air Quality Research: How Science Is Charting a Path to Cleaner Air” along with the ARB and the Central California Air Quality Studies Government-Private Sector Partnership. Registration is free. Information is available online at www.valleyair.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Citizens’ Advisory Committee – 10 am Tues., May 2

Governing Board – 10 a.m. Thurs., May 18