

# Highlights

## District Activities for August 2006



### August 17, 2006 Actions by the Governing Board

- Staff presented an overview to the Board detailing the upcoming challenges and strategies for meeting the new **8-hour ozone standard**, the state of the Valley's air and the significant progress made over the past 16 years. While the air basin has recorded many successes through past efforts, many more reductions will be needed to meet the new, tougher standard and state and federal agencies will need to fully participate in providing these reductions.
- The Governing Board amended **Rule 4354** (Glass Melting Furnaces) and **Rule 4703** (Stationary Gas Turbines). The amendment to Rule 4354 was required to satisfy federal Clean Air Act requirements and extended the rule applicability to include sources emitting between 10 and 25 tons/year. The Rule 4703 amendment allows extended start-up and shut-down periods, when necessary due to technical limitations of the control equipment.
- The Board approved a **Development Mitigation Contract** with the County of Fresno for \$70,000. The funds for the Fresno County project will be used to offset the air-quality impacts of the Clean Closure of the Mendota Landfill. The emission reductions are obtained by purchasing cleaner engines, installing retrofit devices, purchasing new low-emission vehicles and other types of projects through the District's Emission Reduction Incentive Program.
- The Board adopted the **8-hr Ozone RACT SIP Analysis** to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements for the preparation of planning documents related to implementation of the federal 8-hour ozone ambient air-quality standard. The analysis concluded that District rules meet RACT requirements for 8-hour ozone. Two source categories identified by EPA for RACT analysis do not exist in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, so the Board also adopted a negative declaration stating that the District does not have rules for these categories because of the absence of sources.
- The Board received and filed the following items and set September 21 for public hearings to consider their adoption.
  - Proposed **Rule 9310** (School Bus Fleets).
  - Proposed amendments to **Rule 4602** (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Refinishing Operations) and Proposed **Rule 4612** (Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Refinishing Operations, Phase 2 Flares).
  - Proposed amendments to **Rule 2020** (Exemptions) and **Rule 2201** (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule).

### Public Information, Legislative, Outreach and Education

The Valley had a run of **Spare the Air** days in July with 11 days called in the Northern region and 13 each in the Central and Southern regions. This brings the current season's total in excess of the total number of days called last year for the entire season. The long stretches of Spare the Air days in July brought this year's total to 17 days in the Northern region, and 19 days each in the Central and Southern regions, compared to 11 days in the north in 2005, and 18 in each of the other two regions.

July Spare the Air days by region: North: 7/14-7/18, 7/20-7/25. Central and South: 7/10-7/11, 7/14-7/18, 7/20-7/25.

The Valley Air District reduced smog-forming emissions by 2.24 tons with the completion of **Clean Green Yard Machines** 2006 in June. This year, the District retired almost 800 gas-burning mowers and gave the former polluting-mower owners a 60% discount on the Neuton cordless electric mower. Trade-in events were held in May and June in Stockton, Merced, Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield. This was the largest number of trade-in events the District has ever held for its lawn mower incentive program.

The District issued two news releases in July: a fireworks health cautionary statement and the Air Quality Town Hall meeting schedule. Air pollution also was the topic of a presentation to a summer school class and 65 public calls and 65 media calls were answered in July.

## Grant and Incentive Program Activities

- The District received **8** Ag Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) applications in July for a total of **13** engines. The District has received **243** applications to date for a total of **833** engines.
- **\$3,424,962** in heavy-duty program and REMOVE II grant funds were placed under contract in July.
- **\$32,230** was paid out in Remove II component claims in July.
- **\$868,992** was paid out in Heavy-Duty Program component claims in July.

Ag Engines - 19	\$393,559
Off Road - 5	\$295,421
On-Road - 3	\$180,012

## Operation Overview

- **Planning** received 193 environmental documents in July and held 15 rule and plan workshops. 62 smoking vehicles were reported
- **Compliance** conducted 1,717 inspections in July and issued 211 NOVs. 129 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 244 applications and issued 254 permits in July.

## Other District News

- Fresno County **Supervisor Judy Case** has rejoined the Governing Board, replacing Supervisor Susan Anderson.
- The District held a series of six **Town Hall meetings** from July 26-28 to describe the Valley's air-quality status and to discuss ways to work collectively to reach the federal 8-hour ozone standard. The meetings were held in Bakersfield, Delano, Fresno, Huron, Modesto, and Stockton at various times to accommodate stakeholders' schedules. The approximately 300 attendees represented environmental groups, industry, government and concerned citizens. About 100 attendees presented verbal comments during the meetings. Overall, the meetings were well received and presented an opportunity for the District to directly communicate air-quality issues with the public in an open forum.
- Staff has worked closely with representatives of District community groups to formulate a draft **Environmental Justice** policy. The document has been translated into Spanish and was presented for comment at the July meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. It will go through a public workshop process before presentation to the Board for adoption. Environmental justice calls for considerations to be made to prevent disparate environmental impacts on communities. Both the Federal and State governments have EJ policies in place.
- The District website has been redesigned to be easier to navigate and more user friendly.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Citizens' Advisory Committee** –10 a.m. Tues., **Sept. 5**

**Governing Board** – 9 a.m. Thurs., **Sept. 21**