

# Highlights

## District Activities for April 2007

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### April 30 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted California's first **2007 Ozone Plan** following a comprehensive overview of the complex plan by staff and comments from 94 members of the public. The approval of the plan marked the successful conclusion of an exhaustive year-long effort by District staff and an extensive public outreach campaign.

“The 2007 Plan provides a new roadmap to reducing air pollution that will ultimately bring the entire Valley into attainment with the health-based federal smog standard,” said Seyed Sadredin, District APCO/ Executive Director.

In addition to traditional control measures, this first-of-its-kind 1,200-page plan also proposes innovative strategies, identifies reductions needed from the mobile sources of air pollution that are under the jurisdiction of the state and federal government and calls for billions of dollars in additional incentive funding to accelerate fleet turnover.

The Board also voted to ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate the air basin as “Extreme” nonattainment for ozone. This designation creates a deadline of 2024 for the basin to meet the federal 8-hour ozone standard. Ninety percent of the Valley will be in attainment by 2020 but technologies do not yet exist to bring the remainder of the District into compliance until 2024. The final plan is due to the EPA by June 15.

- The Governing Board received from staff the first Annual Report on the District's **Indirect Source Review** program covering March 1, 2006 - Feb. 28, 2007. The rule is designed to minimize the air-quality impacts of new development and was very successful in its first year of implementation. During the reporting period, the rule generated nearly \$13 million in emissions mitigation fees and funded emission reduction projects resulting in NOx and PM10 reductions of over 850 tons.
- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4103 (Open Burning)** and set May 17 as the public hearing date to consider adoption.
- The Board heard a report from Jess Brown, Executive Director of the Merced Council of Governments, on the **San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process**, a partnership of the eight county Councils of Governments and the Great Valley Center that focuses on regional land use, air quality and transportation. The Board will take up the Blueprint project's request for continued financial support at the May 17 meeting.
- The Board received a report on “Check Before You Burn,” the residential fireplace curtailment program implemented in 2003 as a result of amendments to **Rule 4901 (Wood-Burning Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Heaters)**. Between November 2006 and February 2007, there were 39 incidents of mandatory curtailments in the District: between one in San Joaquin and 12 in Fresno, depending on the county. Voluntary curtailments ranged from 22 days in San Joaquin to 50 days in Kern. Good public cooperation was evident this season as residents have come to more fully understand the correlation between wood smoke and wintertime particulate pollution. Rule 4901 will be re-examined as part of the PM 2.5 Plan process in 2008.

The Board also heard preliminary results on the **Burn Cleaner** program. The District partnered with Operation Clean Air to use EPA grant funds to sponsor Burn Cleaner from February-March. The program offered Valley residents financial incentives of up to \$350 to replace older, wood-burning

devices with cleaner-burning fireplace inserts and heating stoves. More than 500 vouchers were issued and 14 recyclers crushed the old devices. Nearly \$50,000 was paid to the 33 participating hearth retailers by the end of April. The program hopefully will continue next year.

## Public Information, Outreach and Education

- The District kicked off its sixth **Clean Green Yard Machines** lawn mower trade-in program April 23 to rousing success. Within 48 hours, about 1,000 program vouchers already had been allocated. The District and its partners – the California Air Resources Board, PG&E and Merced, Tulare and Stanislaus counties -- provided the funding for Valley residents to purchase a Neuton cordless electric mower for \$150, a 63 percent discount off the regular \$418 price. To be eligible, residents had to turn in a gas mower to one of nine recycling companies.
- In March, Public Information staff responded to 240 public calls and 66 media calls. Four news releases were issued in English and Spanish notifying the public that the end of the Burn Cleaner program was imminent. Another release outlined the details of the proposed 2007 Ozone Plan. Staff participated in 10 outreach presentations to schools and organizations around the District.

## Grant and Incentive Program Activities for March

- The District received a total of 62 applications for incentive programs in March.
- The District received 22 agricultural engine electrification (Ag ICE) applications in March for a total of 81 engines. The District has received 383 Ag ICE applications to date for a total of 1,079 engines.
- \$3,516,339 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in March.
- \$7,827,608.88 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.
  - Ag Engines – 37 \$4,415,621
  - Off-Road Engines – 6 \$1,222,330
  - On Road – 1 \$ 830,144
  - School Bus Replacement – 5 \$1,359,513.88
- \$192,004 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims.

## March Operation Overview

- **The District** received 195 environmental documents for review in March.
- **Planning** held six rule and plan public workshops. Rule 4565 (Biosolids, Animal Manure and Poultry Litter Ops.) was adopted in March.
- **Compliance** conducted 1,069 inspections and issued 195 NOVs. 354 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 451 applications and issued 338 permits in March.
- **ERIP** received 52 smoking vehicle reports.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board**  
**9 a.m. Thurs., May 17**

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

Meetings are held in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Fresno. The Northern Region Office in Modesto and the Southern Region Office in Bakersfield participate via video teleconference. Governing Board Meetings also are webcast.