

Highlights

District Activities for June 2007



June 21 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted **Rule 1177 (Gasoline Dispensing Facility Tester Certification)** and **Rule 3147 (Fees for Certification of GDF Testers)**. Rule 1177 establishes a District certification and training program for GDF testers. Rule 3147 sets fees to recover program costs.
- The Board approved a \$122,000 contract with the Central California Health Policy Institute to study the **health and environmental benefits of Rule 4901** (Wood-Burning Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Heaters). The study will quantify the reductions and benefits of the District's current rule in urban areas and measure the contributions wood-burning devices make to reducing PM 2.5 levels.
- The Board heard a presentation on the **Dual Path Strategy: Fast Track Action Plan**. To complement the 2007 Ozone Plan, the plan identifies three strategies to expedite ozone standard attainment. These are: effective and expedited regulations by ARB and EPA; a significant increase in incentive funding; and Fast-Track emission reduction measures.

A Fast-Track Task Force made up of environmental organizations, industry representatives and the Governor's SJV Partnership has been meeting with District staff to provide input on these efforts.

- The Board approved contracts with Atmospheric Analysis and Consulting, Inc. of Ventura for \$193,000 for **laboratory analysis of non-methane organic and carbonyl compounds**. The analyses are required for Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station (PAMS) data used to evaluate District ozone control strategies. CARB previously performed these services but is no longer able to do so due to workload limitations.
- The Board extended until March 31, 2009, an agreement to construct a small-scale **liquid natural gas liquefier** near Coalinga. The project will help secure a local, reliable source of LNG for the Valley's heavy-duty vehicle fleets. Expanding the regional LNG infrastructure will reduce NOx and diesel PM emissions as well as the Valley's dependency on long-distance LNG suppliers.
- Representatives from Valley Clean Air Now presented the results of the organization's 2005 voluntary **Tune In and Tune Up** program. Repair vouchers for \$500 were given to owners of gross-polluting vehicles identified during events in Fresno and Bakersfield. In Fresno, 48 vehicles were successfully repaired, resulting in 0.7 tons of NOx reductions. Preliminary results in Bakersfield showed 112 vehicles repaired and NOx reductions of 1.9 tons.
- The Board adopted the **2007-08 budget** for the District and established a formal general reserve policy.
- The Board heard an update on the planned 220 mph high-speed train system from Carli Paine, consultant to the High Speed Rail Authority. The proposed system will stretch from San Francisco through the Valley down to San Diego. The system will bring economic development to the Valley, protect farmland and reduce pollution from traffic.
- The Board voted 6-3 to oppose SB719 (Machado, D-Linden), which would alter the make-up of the Governing Board, and to oppose SB240 (Flores, D-Shafter) unless amended,

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- In May, Outreach and Communications staff responded to 155 public calls and 66 media calls. Four news releases were issued in English and Spanish covering the adoption of the 2007 Ozone Plan, the approval of amendments to the open-burning rule, a high-wind advisory and a tire fire near Sanger. The District also distributed an opinion piece by Seyed Sadredin explaining the strategy behind the 2007 Ozone Plan and the District's commitment to reaching ozone attainment at the earliest possible

date. It ran on the editorial pages of several major newspapers. Staff made 16 outreach presentations to elementary and college students and organizations.

- The District launched the 2007 Spare the Air program June 5 to begin its annual effort to curb ozone pollution on days when the air is deemed unhealthy. Typically, 20 to 40 Spare the Air Days are called between June and September, depending on location. A multi-media, multi-lingual outreach campaign to educate the public about how each of us can help reduce ozone pollution will begin in July.
- The Clean Green Yard Machine program ended its most successful year ever with nearly 1,000 discount vouchers for Neuton cordless electric lawn mowers distributed to grateful residents. To receive the discount, residents turned in their gas-powered mowers to a recycling company.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for May

- The District received 73 incentive program applications in May.
- The District received 25 agricultural engine electrification (Ag ICE) applications in May for a total of 46 engines. The District has received 423 Ag ICE applications to date for a total of 1,072 engines.
- \$3,826,119 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$8,649,353.80 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims.
 - Ag Engines – 21 \$ 958,350.00
 - Electric Forklift - 1 \$ 23,806.00
 - Off-Road Engines – 9 \$ 3,884,591.00
 - On Road – 1 \$ 240,000.00
 - Locomotive – 1 \$ 3,508,705.00
 - School Bus Retrofit – 1 \$ 33,901.80
- \$44,000 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in May.

May Operation Overview

- **The District** received 235 environmental documents for review in May.
- **Planning** held three rule and plan public workshops. Rule 4103 (Open Burning) was amended May 17.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,488 inspections and issued 275 NOVs. 327 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 378 applications and issued 341 permits in May.
- **ERIP** received 69 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

No July meetings are scheduled for the Governing Board or CAC.

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., August 16

Citizens' Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., August 7

Meetings are held in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Fresno. The Northern Region Office at 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, and the Southern Region Office, 2700 M St., Bakersfield, participate via video teleconference. Governing Board Meetings also are webcast at www.valleyair.org.