

Highlights

District Activities for May 2007



May 17 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board amended District **Rule 4103 (Open Burning)**. The amendments prohibit burning of agricultural orchard removal materials effective June 1, 2007, reducing emissions of smog-forming compounds by over 1,400 tons per year. As required by State law (SB705 Florez), limited exemptions were provided for removal of Pome trees (apples, pears, quince), which must currently be burned due to the threat of fire blight disease, and small acreages where there is not yet any economically feasible alternatives to burning. These limited exemptions expire in 2010. In addition to satisfying the requirements of State law, this rule action also implements Phase III of the open burning control measure identified in the District's recently adopted 2007 Ozone Plan.
- The Board held a special public hearing for review and comment on the **District's 2007-08 Budget** and set June 21 for a public hearing to consider adoption. For the first time in over 10 years, a reduction in District operating expenses is proposed.
- The Board voted to fund the **San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process** in the amount of \$250,000. This funding action requires a match from other Blueprint participants and stakeholders. The Blueprint project, a partnership of the Valley's eight county Councils of Government and the Great Valley Center, focuses on regional land use, air quality and transportation.
- The Board received and filed proposed **Rule 1177 (Gasoline Dispensing Facility Tester Certification)** and **Rule 3147 (Fees for Certification of Gasoline Dispensing Facility Testers)** and set June 21 for the public hearing to consider adoption.
- The Board approved a \$680,000 contract with Jeffrey/Scott Advertising to implement comprehensive, bilingual **media outreach campaigns** for key District programs including Spare the Air and Check Before You Burn during FY 2007-08.
- The Board heard a report on U.S. District Court Case 2:06-CV-01416, Association of American Railroads vs. South Coast AQMD. The judge's recent ruling prohibits operational controls on railroads.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- The 2007 **Clean Green Yard Machines** (CGYM) program generated 963 public calls and hundreds more emails in April, a record number, as Valley residents contacted Public Information for a discount voucher for an electric lawn mower. Due to the overwhelming response, the District's 1,000 CGYM vouchers were allocated during the first week of the program.
- In April, Public Information staff also processed 108 public calls on other topics and 70 media calls, primarily relating to the 2007 Ozone Plan. Four news releases were issued in English and Spanish to publicize CGYM, the Ozone Plan, high winds leading to poor air quality and a trip to Washington, D.C., by a Valley contingent seeking federal air quality funds. Staff also participated in 12 outreach presentations to District schools and organizations.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for April

- The District received 48 applications for incentive programs in April.
- The District received 15 agricultural engine electrification (Ag ICE) applications in April for a total of 47 engines. To date, the District has received 398 Ag ICE applications totaling 1,026 engines.
- \$4,746,117.38 in Heavy-Duty Engine program and REMOVE II program grant funds were placed under contract in April.

- \$6,940,399.81 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine program claims.
 - Ag Engines – 29 \$2,675,311.00
 - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$1,198,108.00
 - On Road – 7 \$2,552,823.00
 - School Bus Replacement – 3 \$ 260,324.21
 - School bus Retrofit – 2 \$ 253,833.60
- \$51,070 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims in April.

April Operation Overview

- **The District** received 176 environmental documents for review in April.
- **Planning** held 10 rule and plan public workshops. The 2007 Ozone Plan was adopted April 30.
- **Compliance** conducted 1,556 inspections and issued 205 NOVs. 452 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 297 applications and issued 2,415 permits in April.
- **ERIP** received 54 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., June 21

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

There are no July meetings scheduled for either the Governing Board or CAC.

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.