

Highlights



District Activities for February 2007

February 15 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board received and filed new **Rule 4565 (Biosolids, Animal and Poultry Litter)** and set March 15 for a public hearing to consider adoption. The rule would implement a VOC control measure in the Ozone Plan.
- The Governing Board heard a status report on the **2007 Ozone Plan** by Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director/APCO. District staff is in the final stages of completing the plan before it is brought to the Board during a public hearing at the April meeting.

Sadredin said that the plan has been developed with extensive public input over the last 9-18 months and that all public comments and suggestions have been considered. The plan's key components for stationary sources are regulations and incentive funds. Significant funds will be requested from state and federal governments to facilitate vehicle replacement and fleet turnover. Along with major advancements in pollution-control technology, these components will result in 50% of the Valley's population reaching attainment by 2015 and 90% reaching attainment by 2020.

"We believe the plan's regulatory components will meet or exceed any other plan in the state," Sadredin added.

Public comments are being accepted until Feb. 26. Following the Governing Board hearing in April, and an ARB hearing in June, the plan is due to the EPA by June. 15.

- **State Senator Mike Machado**, D-Linden, came before the Board to discuss his proposals for new legislation that could potentially change the make-up of the District Governing Board. In his remarks, Senator Machado commended the District on its efforts to develop and adopt a number of innovative regulations that have reduced air pollution here in the Valley.

He also indicated that he believes obtaining the long-term funding that the District needs to carry out its 2007 Ozone Plan will be a great challenge, and that the changes to the board make-up he is proposing could help build the constituencies needed to meet that challenge.

- The Governing Board approved the Guidelines for the **Gross Polluting Vehicle Replacement Program**. Emission standards for new vehicles have drastically improved, yet a significant portion of the older vehicle fleet remains on the road producing a disproportionate amount of air pollution. The District's Gross Polluting Vehicle Replacement Program aims to encourage the retirement of older, high-emitting vehicles. The District will gather data from the state BAR and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in order to develop a method for identifying the high-emitting vehicles that will be invited to participate in the program.

The program will provide for a retirement option in which old vehicles are crushed, and also provide for an additional incentive to replace the highest-polluting vehicles with a newer, lower-emitting vehicle. The cash incentive option for vehicle crushing will be \$1,000. The incentive for crushing and replacing a high emitting vehicle will be \$5,000 towards the purchase of a replacement vehicle that meets the LEV II standard. The District plans to allocate \$2 million for the first phase of the program.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- The District is offering incentive funds to encourage residents to change out any non-EPA Phase II-certified woodstoves and fireplace inserts. Operation Clean Air and the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Assn. are partnering with the District on the Burn Cleaner Program that provides from \$250 to \$800 off the price of a cleaner-burning device, such as a gas insert or stove. Residents can also have a gas, pellet or wood insert installed in their open-hearth fireplaces. Thirty hearth retailers and 14 metal recyclers have signed on to participate in the program, which runs through March 15. Between 500 to 900 change-outs are expected to be funded for San Joaquin Valley residents during the program.
- A prohibition on the use of residential wood-burning fireplaces and woodstoves was declared in four District counties in January. Fresno County recorded six curtailment days, Tulare County had five, Kern County had two and San Joaquin County noted one day. A multi-lingual advertising campaign that educates the public about the program is currently running on TV, radio and on billboards. The program ends Feb. 28.
- Public Information staff responded to 60 media calls and 173 public calls in January. Three news releases were issued: The draft Ozone Plan, the Burn Cleaner Program and a wood-burning curtailment. Two media advisories were issued on press conferences for the Ozone Plan and the kick off of the Burn Cleaner Program. Eight outreach presentations were given to schools and organizations in all parts of the District.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for January

- The District received 51 incentive program applications in January including 14 agricultural engine electrification (AG ICE) applications, for a total of 21 engines. 341 AG ICE applications, for a total of 929 engines, have been received to date.
- \$1,380,650 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in January.
- \$5,426,772.67 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in January.
 - Ag Engines – 27 \$1,882,823.00
 - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$ 793,119.00
 - On Road - 2 \$1,783,720.00
 - School Bus Replacement – 3 \$ 967,110.67
- \$103,505 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in January.

January Operation Overview

- **The District** received 183 environmental documents for review in January.
- **Planning** held 6 public rule and plan workshops, and adopted Rule 4702 (Internal Combustion Engines – Phase 2).
- **Compliance** conducted 1301 inspections and issued 384 NOVs. 253 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 275 applications and issued 271 permits in January.
- **ERIP** received 40 smoking vehicle reports.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., March 15

Citizens' Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., March 6

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.