

# Highlights

## District Activities for January 2008

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### January 17 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Governing Board adopted a resolution urging the California Air Resources Board to increase the District's share of the \$1 billion **Proposition IB**, Goods Movement Air Quality Mitigation Funds, above the levels proposed by ARB staff. The ARB staff recommends that the Central Valley trade corridor (San Joaquin and Sacramento) receive 25% of the total funds. However, this targeted percentage was derived from a formula using unsanctioned goods-movement inventory figures not consistent with State Implementation Plan data, using population without considering population exposure, and without accounting for the District's need for expedited attainment of the federal ozone standard by 2017. The District proposes the Central Valley trade corridor receive 37%. The Air Resources Board will vote on the recommendations February 28-29. The District is slated to receive \$5.7 million of the early grant project funds. A total of \$250 million will be allocated this fiscal year.
- The Board voted to **support the confirmation** of Supervisor Judith Case to the California Air Resources Board.
- The Board approved the concept of the **Healthy Air Living Initiative** and the contract renewal with Jeffrey/Scott Advertising for marketing and public outreach campaigns. Healthy Air Living is a Valley-wide initiative to accelerate the path to cleaner air and will replace the District's Spare the Air program. The initiative is a multi-pronged effort to provide the public with information and tools on reducing pollution emissions. It targets a variety of business and public sectors -- including farmers, auto dealers, big box stores, manufacturers and schools -- to achieve goals such as reducing vehicle miles traveled, reducing emissions from industry equipment and processes, shifting emissions from peak smog periods and adopting cleaner fuels and clean technology. The plan kicks off with strategy-building next month. Summits to educate the public in the District's eight counties are scheduled for March 25 in Bakersfield, March 26 in Fresno and March 27 in Modesto.
- After 10 consecutive years with no across-the-board fee increases, the Governing Board adopted amendments to a series of **District fee schedules** resulting in an 8% increase effective immediately, and a second 8% increase effective July 1, 2009. These amendments also expand the applicability of an existing fee-for-service related to the evaluation of permit applications so that the District can recover its costs related to these activities. These modest fee increases, which were only proposed after new cost-cutting measures were implemented this fiscal year, will address the structural budget imbalance that exists between the District's revenues and operating expenses.

The following rules are affected: Rule 3010 (Permit Fee), Rule 3020 (Permit Fee Schedules), Rule 3030 (Hearing Board Fees), Rule 3040 (Open Burning Fees), Rule 3050 (Asbestos Removal Fees), Rule 3060 (Emission Reduction Credit Banking Fee), Rule 3070 (Other Charges), Rule 3110 (Air Toxics Fees), Rule 3120 (Regulation VIII Alternative Compliance Plan Review Fee), Rule 3135 (Dust Control Plan Fee), Rule 3140 (Fees for Certification of Air Permitting Professionals), Rule 3150 (Fees for Portable Equipment Registration), Rule 3155 (Permit-Exempt Equipment Registration Fees), Rule 3160 (Prescribed Burning Fees), Rule 3180 (Admin. Fees for Indirect Source Review), and Rule 3190 (Conservation Management Practices Plan Fee). The Board repealed Rule 3080 (Atmospheric Acidity Protection Act Program Fee) and Rule 3090 (California Clean Air Act Fees).

- The Governing Board **adopted amendments to Rule 7011** (Hexavalent Chromium: Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations). The amendments incorporate the Air Resource Board's airborne toxic control measure (ATCM) for chromium plating and chromic acid anodizing facilities. Inhalation of hexavalent chromium has been determined by the State to cause cancer. The new ATCM requires additional emission reductions of hexavalent chromium depending upon the size of the facility and its proximity to nearby residences. The ATCM went into effect October 24, 2007 and the District is required by State law to enforce it.

- John Gasman, MD, presented a health update on the **respiratory effects of exposure to diesel** traffic by people with asthma. Results from a study done in London and reported in the New Eng. Journal of Medicine showed statistically significantly health effects in asthmatics exposed to particulate matter pollution from diesel exhaust. Exposure effects also are cumulative over time. Dr. Gasman said the study shows that diesel exposure leads to changes in airway function, not only in asthmatics but in the general population as well, and can cause chronic inflammation of the respiratory system. Long-term pollution exposure impacts lung function and mortality rates, he said.
- The Board adopted the District's **2008 State Legislative Platform**. Priorities include (1) receiving fair share allocation of Prop. 1B and AB 118 funds, (2) securing more funding for emission reduction incentives, (3) supporting legislation that gives the District some regulatory authority over mobile sources, (4) seeking approval of Air Quality Empowerment Zone designations and (5) legislation to promote and facilitate ag burning alternatives.
- The Board approved an agreement with the federal lobbyist firm of Siff & Lake, LLP, to continue efforts to **secure emission reduction funding** for the District. The federal strategy includes working for the establishment of an Air Quality Empowerment Zone in the Valley. This new designation could bring enhanced federal funding to the area.

## Public Information, Outreach and Education

The District and Operation Clean Air are partnering again to reduce wintertime particle pollution through the **Burn Cleaner** program. Starting Feb. 4, Valley residents will be eligible to receive a \$350 voucher toward replacing their dirty, wood-burning fireplaces or heaters with cleaner natural-gas or propane stoves or inserts. Information will be posted online at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org). On Dec. 11, the District sponsored a **Check Before You Burn** "Media Day" in the Fresno area market. Staff hosted Valley broadcast and print media at the Clovis monitoring station, at a home with a wood-burning "dirty" fire and at the mobile monitoring van. The District called residential wood-burning curtailment days in six counties during the first two months of the Check Before You Burn season (Nov and Dec.): Fresno - 6, Kern - 7, Kings - 4, Madera - 3, Stanislaus -1, Tulare - 4. San Joaquin and Merced counties had no prohibition days. In December, Outreach and Communications responded to 33 media calls and 167 public calls and distributed three news releases.

## Grant and Incentive Program Activities for December

- The District received 44 incentive program applications in December.
- \$3,767,908.52 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in December.
- \$913,826.90 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims that month.
  - Ag Engines – 11                      \$ 281,001.00
  - Off-Road Engines – 4                      \$ 532,830.00
  - On-Road – 1                              \$ 99,995.90
- \$150,852.39 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims.

## Operation Overview for December

- **The District** received 135 environmental documents for review.
- **Planning** had 4 rules adopted or amended in Dec. and held 6 rule and plan public workshops.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,079 inspections and issued 266 NOVs. 326 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 212 applications and issued 243 permits in December.
- **ERIP** received 23 smoking vehicle reports last month.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board**  
**9 a.m. Thurs., Feb. 21, 2008**

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**  
**10 a.m. Tues., Feb. 5, 2008**

Please see [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) for meeting information.