

Highlights

District Activities for February 2008



February 21 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Board amended the District's **2008 State Legislative Platform** to include a climate change section that supports the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the Air Resources Board's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. AB 32 requires California to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Despite significant progress in improving air quality in the region, the San Joaquin Valley faces a daunting challenge in meeting the new standards for ozone and particulates. The District's support for climate change control is based on our belief that programs proposed by ARB will not only help reduce GHG emissions but are essential to our efforts to meet the health-based standards for criteria pollutants.

The District supports win-win measures aimed at fuel-efficient mobile source controls that reduce GHG and criteria/toxic pollutant emissions and those that avoid duplication with District efforts to control emissions from stationary sources. The platform also supports a cap-and-trade program that sets clear limits on emissions, provides economic flexibility and would work within the structures that other countries have established for controlling GHG emissions.

- The Board authorized the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer to revise the District's **best available control technology (BACT)** cost-effectiveness procedures and increase the BACT cost-effectiveness threshold to be consistent with other California air districts.. The District reviews and processes about 4,000-6000 new or modified source applications per year and most must be evaluated for BACT. BACT calls for the application of either the most stringent control achieved in practice or the control that is technologically feasible and cost effective. Different controls are analyzed and recommended for each project. Historically, a large percentage of new BACT determinations have come from the San Joaquin Valley, and the changes in procedures and the threshold are not expected to significantly change the overall stringency of District permitting requirements.
- The Board authorized the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer to apply to the ARB for the maximum amount of eligible **Proposition IB** funds available for fiscal year 2007-08 and each subsequent year. Proposition IB authorized \$1 billion in bond funding to reduce air pollution. The ARB is the administering agency for the funds.
- Mary-Michal Rawling introduced herself to the Governing Board as the 2008 Chair of the **Citizens' Advisory Committee** and reported on the committee's last meeting. She represents the Merced County Asthma Coalition on the CAC.
- In comments to the Board, Seyed Sadredin discussed progress made to implement **Healthy Air Living**, the District's new initiative to accelerate the attainment of cleaner air. He said that 10-15% of the Valley's pollution is caused by city, county and other government operations and asked for the Board's support in promoting participation from their management at the Healthy Air Living Summits scheduled for March 25-27 in all three regions.

There will be a massive media outreach during Healthy Air Living week July 7-13 and it's hoped that clean-air efforts are made by the public and private sectors that week (and all year) to bring noticeable improvements in air quality. The District has put together alternative-transportation policies in template form that businesses and agencies can use to institute such things as telecommuting, and has suggestions to promote carpooling and other activities to reduce employee trips. District staff is meeting with target audiences to introduce Healthy Air Living and offer these tools.

Air pollution transport: Seyed is holding a summit with other Air Pollution Control Officers to discuss pollution transported into the San Joaquin Valley air basin from other districts. The meeting will look at what needs to be done to quantify transport and how we can make sure businesses in other air basins are subject to regulations as stringent as our own. The District has done everything it can to reduce

pollution here, and will continue to do so, but, every ounce of reductions is essential and 7-30% transport from other districts is significant.

Public Information, Outreach and Education

- Registration forms for the **Healthy Air Living Summits** are available at www.valleyair.org. The Summits are free and open to the public but participants must register. Summits will be held from 8:30 am to 5 pm at the following locations:

Bakersfield	March 25	Holiday Inn Select Hotel and Conference Center
Fresno	March 26	Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
Modesto	March 27	DoubleTree Hotel

For more information, contact Outreach and Communications in Fresno at 559-230-6000 in Modesto at 209-557-6400 and in Bakersfield at 661-326-6900.

- Residents from throughout the District have requested vouchers from the **Burn Cleaner** fireplace and woodstove changeout program since it began Feb. 4. This popular program gives residents \$350 toward the cost of replacing their fireplace or wood burning stove or insert with a gas device. About 300 projects will be funded. **Check Before You Burn** is in its final month. In January, the District called residential wood-burning curtailments only in Kern County and only on two days. Outreach and Communications responded to 20 media calls and 115 public calls in January and gave six presentations. A news release was distributed on the District's \$546,700 grant to the City of Arvin to replace fleet vehicles with cleaner burning models.

Grant and Incentive Program Activities for January

- The District received a total of 52 applications for the incentive programs in January.
- \$751,709.00 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in January.
- \$7,133,879.63 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in January.
 - Ag Engines - 25 \$ 884,343.72
 - Off-Road Engines – 7 \$3,003,630.28
 - On-Road – 6 \$1,204,213.64
 - School Bus Replacement – 3 \$1,800,456.49
 - Infrastructure – 1 \$ 241,235.50
- \$17,910.00 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims in January.

Operation Overview for January

- **The District** received 33 environmental documents for review.
- **Planning** had 19 rules adopted or amended in Jan. and held 8 rule and plan public workshops.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,564 inspections and issued 277 NOVs. 260 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 212 applications and issued 750 permits in January.
- **ERIP** received 25 smoking vehicle reports last month.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board

9 a.m. Thurs., March 20, 2008

Citizens' Advisory Committee

10 a.m. Tues., March 4, 2008

Please see www.valleyair.org for meeting information.