

# Highlights

## District Activities for May 2008

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### May 15 Actions by the Governing Board

- Dr. David Lighthall, Senior Scientist for the Central Valley Healthy Policy Institute at Fresno State, presented an overview of findings from a research study that assessed the impact of **Rule 4901 (Wood-burning Fireplaces and Heaters) on PM2.5** levels. The study compared data from November 2000 to February 2008, both before and after the rule's adoption, in Fresno and Bakersfield. Conclusions showed clear evidence of the effectiveness of the rule on daily and seasonal PM2.5 levels in both cities. On average, wood-burning bans in Fresno prevented PM2.5 from reaching levels that violated the federal standard. PM 2.5 exposure was also significantly reduced in Bakersfield, but the change was less pronounced than in Fresno because of higher ambient nitrate concentrations.
- The Board declared **July 7-13 as 2008 Healthy Air Living Week**, and approved innovative outreach and internal activities for that week to implement the new clean-air initiative. The District plans to lead by example as it empowers Valley residents, businesses, organizations and municipalities to reduce emissions from day-to-day activities. . It is hoped that the trip-reduction strategies will serve as a catalyst for others to move toward air-friendly behaviors and try new things on a short-term basis during the week.

Outreach efforts will include extensive advertising and media coverage, a Toyota Prius giveaway and Healthy Air Living pledge cards. A kit containing a resource handbook and other tools will be distributed to businesses and organizations in early June. To receive a kit, contact [public.education@valleyair.org](mailto:public.education@valleyair.org).

- The Board adopted amendments to **Rule 7070 (Perchloroethylene from Dry Cleaning Operations)**. The amendments will allow the District to proceed with the implementation of the Air Resource's Board's new Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM). The amendments require the phase-out of perchloroethylene in dry cleaning by 2023. Perchloroethylene is a carcinogen and the elimination of its use will reduce the public health risk.
- The Governing Board amended the District's **2008 State Legislative Platform** to include a policy supporting "net metering" to promote solar power technology. Net metering allows excess power produced at a site to be sold back to power providers and be credited to the solar producer. It will make solar power a more cost-effective option and be an incentive to install more clean and renewable power generation in the Valley.

### Public Information, Outreach and Education

- The 2008 **Clean Green Yard Machine** lawnmower trade-in program opened April 22. By the end of the first week, all 1,100 vouchers to purchase an electric mower at a discount were spoken for and a long wait list was compiled. This popular program, now in its seventh year, has resulted in significant emission reductions from gas-powered lawn mowers. A gas mower used for one hour pollutes as much as 40 late model cars.
- Outreach and Communications responded to 26 media calls and 730 public calls in April. Staff participated in 13 outreach events ranging from health fairs and Earth Day celebrations to presentations to classrooms and organizations. Two news releases were distributed.

### Grant and Incentive Program Activities for April

- The District received 34 incentive program applications in April.
- \$1,600,131 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract.
- \$9,966,688.88 was paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in April.

- Ag Engines - 27                                 \$2,099,294.76
  - Off-Road Engines – 10                         \$5,851,684.55
  - On-Road – 8                                       \$2,015,709.57
- \$9,495 was paid out in REMOVE II Program claims.

### April Operations Overview

- **The District** received 82 environmental documents for review.
- **Planning's** 2008 PM2.5 Plan was adopted in April and 7 public workshops were held.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,936 inspections and issued 234 NOVs. 210 cases were settled.
- **Permits** received 281 applications and issued 358 permits in April.
- **ERIP** received 43 smoking vehicle reports last month.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board**  
**9 a.m. Thurs., June 19**

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**  
**10 a.m. Tues., June 3, 2008**

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