

# District Highlights

September 17, 2009 Actions by the Governing Board

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- Chair Chris Vierra welcomed four **new members** to the Governing Board: David Ayers, Hanford councilmember; Ann Johnston, mayor of Stockton; Jesus Gamboa, Visalia councilmember and Randy Miller, Taft councilmember.
- The Board voted to reauthorize and expand the District's **Economic Assistance Initiative** for another six months. The measures allow more time to pay permit fees, waive late fee and use installment payments. Developers can defer indirect source mitigation fees until a project is occupied. The penalty for grantees not able to satisfy grant obligations and the minimum usage requirement also will be waived. About 300 permittees have taken advantage of the initiative to date.
- The Board adopted amendments to **Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling)** and approved the District's proposal to create a \$500,000 pilot Charbroiler Incentive Program (ChIP) to fund the installation of particulate matter (PM2.5) controls on under-fired charbroilers. The Board's actions will control PM2.5 emissions from chain-driven charbroilers and allow the Air Pollution Control Officer to further investigate economic feasibility and availability of particulate controls for under-fired charbroilers. Funds for the pilot program will come from the existing Indirect Source Review mitigation fees, which were collected to offset emissions from new developments.
- The Board adopted new **Rule 4695 (Brandy Aging and Wine Aging Operations)**. The rule would require controls to reduce Volatile Organic Compound emissions generated from larger wine and brandy aging operations.
- The Board approved amendments to **Rule 4602 (Motor Vehicle Assembly Coatings); Rule 4603 (Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products); Rule 4653 (Adhesives)** and **Rule 4684 (Polyester Resin Operations)**. These amendments incorporate new federal Control Technique Guideline requirements for lower coating and adhesive material VOC limits and emission-reducing work practices. Existing Valley operations are already compliant with these requirements, so no additional emission reductions are expected.
- The Governing Board voted to hold a public hearing Nov. 5 to consider adoption of a proposed set of policy and rule documents aimed at helping residents, businesses, and cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley address **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** impacts, especially under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The package includes a proposed District policy, *Addressing GHG Emissions Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency*, a proposed *Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA*, and proposed amendments to **Rule 2301** (Emission Reduction Credit Banking), to allow entities to receive credit when they voluntarily reduce GHG emissions.
- The Board accepted \$7,261,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** (ARRA) funds and amended the 2009-10 budget to reflect the unanticipated revenue. The funding is part of the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program and will be used to retrofit 190 school buses with diesel particulate filters, to repower 30 ag vehicles with engines that meet the Tier 3 diesel emission standard, and to retrofit 33 heavy-duty trucks with selective catalytic reduction devices, a cutting-edge technology. Over the past six months, the District has submitted ARRA grant proposals totaling more than \$180 million.
- The Board accepted \$140,000 from the Kern County APCD (KCAPCD) to assist that district in **replacing pre-1977 school buses**. The funds will supplement Prop. 1B monies designated for school bus retrofits and replacements to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust. The Valley Air District is the implementing agency for the KCAPCD's allocation of these funds.

## August District Activities

### *Outreach and Education*

- As part of its **2009 Healthy Air Living outreach**, the District partnered with the Central Valley Chevrolet Dealers to give away a 2009 Malibu hybrid. Residents can enter by Sept. 30 by visiting a participating dealer or filling out a personal air-quality pledge card at [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).
- Businesses are invited to become a **Healthy Air Living Business Partner**. Applications are available at [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com). Partners receive tips on reducing employee trips and improving energy efficiency as well as incentives for employees who join the clean-air effort.
- The District launched a **Spanish-language Healthy Air Living website** in September and has a Spanish-only pledge card. Bilingual District staff also attended several Latino outreach events to help spread the word about the Valley's air-quality issues. <http://www.airelimpiovidasana.com/>
- District staff participated in 13 outreach events in August, including health fairs, presentations and the final Healthy Air Living Chat. Staff responded to 44 media calls and 185 public calls and issued four news releases covering the hybrid giveaway, the Hewlett Foundation audit results and the final Chat.

### *Grant and Incentive Programs*

- The District received 41 incentive program applications in August.
  - \$2,442,351 in Heavy-Duty Engine and REMOVE II Program grant funds were contracted.
  - \$3,239,391.98 was paid in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in August.
    - Ag Engines – 34 \$1,741,058.23
    - Electric Forklift – 1 \$ 17,604.00
    - Off-Road – 3 \$ 552,829.08
    - On Road – 1 \$ 39,807.00
    - On-Road 1B – 3 \$ 100,000.00
    - School Bus Retrofit – 2 \$ 788,093.67
- Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)
- NOx 593
  - PM 33
  - ROG 17
- Total: 643
- \$58,550 in REMOVE II Program claims were paid in August.

### *August Operations Overview*

- **The District** received 124 environmental documents for review in August.
- **Planning** held 7 rule and plan workshops last month.
- **Compliance** completed 2,747 inspections, issued 192 NOVS and settled 166 mutual settlement cases in August.
- **Permits** received 246 applications and issued 328 permits.
- **ERIP** received 40 smoking vehicle reports last month.

### *Upcoming Meetings*

**Governing Board**  
**9 a.m. Thurs., Nov. 5**

**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**10 a.m. Tues., Oct. 6**

*The October and November Governing Board meetings have been consolidated. One meeting now will take place November 5. No Board meeting will be held in October. Meetings are held in the Governing Board Room in the Fresno office and by teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)*