

District Highlights

February 18, 2010 Actions by the Governing Board

- The Board accepted \$1.1 million from the California Air Resources Board to operate the statewide **Zero-Emission Agricultural Utility Terrain Vehicle** (UTV) rebate project and \$464,000 to implement the District's **lawn and garden equipment replacement** program (Clean Green Yard Machines). Both will provide funds to replace older, polluting equipment with cleaner models under the state's Air Quality Improvement Program. The funds will encourage and accelerate the use of zero-emission work vehicles in California ag operations, and add funding to the Clean Green Yard Machines program, which exchanges gas-powered lawn mowers for electric models.
- The Board directed staff to begin a public process to develop an approvable more equitable alternative to the costly **ozone nonattainment fee program** mandated in section 185 of the Federal Clean Air Act. The alternative program would eliminate inequities in the requirements by exempting sources that have already installed Best Available Control Technology from the fees and, to the extent legally permissible, distribute the responsibility for fees proportionally between stationary and mobile sources. A staff proposal will be brought back to the Board for consideration in late 2010 or early 2011.
- The Board approved \$510,000 in Remove II program funding for a 365-space **park-and-ride** project in Kern County. Golden Empire Transit Job Opportunity Bus Service (GET JOBS, Inc.) will build the park-and-ride lot in conjunction with a transit shuttle service for the employees of the Tejon Industrial Complex south of Bakersfield. GET JOBS is a non-profit collaboration of businesses and public agencies that gives employees access to jobs while reducing exposure to pollutants by increasing the availability of large-scale transit systems.
- The Board approved the bylaws of the District's **Environmental Justice Advisory Group** (EJAG) and amendments to the District's Environmental Justice Strategy. EJAG advises the District through the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), on integrating environmental justice principles into its programs and policies. An evaluation report prepared by Mr. Sadredin with input from EJAG members, staff, and CAC members complemented EJAG members on their hard work and dedication, and described opportunities for enhancing participation and making EJAG meetings more productive. Going forward, the group will focus more on goals and objectives, receive additional training, communicate more with CAC, and be able to fill vacancies more quickly.
- The Board approved \$30,000 for the Enterprise for Education Corp. to fund the Clean Air Challenge **air quality curriculum**. The theme-based program meets California science standards and will make it possible for 26 teachers and 3,000 7th – 12th grade students to conduct research on the region's two primary air pollutants: ground-level ozone and particulate pollution.
- The Board accepted \$66,750 from the Tejon Mountain Village **Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement** (VERA). The District has entered into these types of emissions reduction agreements with developers since 2005 to mitigate the air impacts of new developments.

January District Activities

Outreach and Education

- **Get connected** with up-to-the-minute air quality information through the District's Facebook page (Valley Air District) and Twitter (ValleyAir).

- **Thanks to the sponsors of Clean Green Yard Machine** – 629 electric mowers were purchased at a discount by Valley residents through the 2009 lawn mower change-out program. The District thanks its co-sponsors: PG&E, Valley CAN, the counties of Merced and Tulare, the Turlock Irrigation District and the City of Ceres. Because of their help, Clean Green Yard Machine is now ongoing year-round. Since the program began in 2001, 6,439 mowers have been purchased and an equal number of gas-powered mowers turned in to recycling centers, reducing NOx emissions by 18,029 tons.
- Elementary schools in the Valley are invited to order the District's **free air quality curriculum**. "Blue Sky, Brown Sky... It's Up to You," for grades K-2 or 3-5, presents the causes and effects of the Valley's air pollution in fun learning activities. The curriculum supports California content standards and includes a teacher's manual, student workbooks, pencils and stickers. To order, see www.healthyliving.com.
- District staff made seven air quality presentations in January to schools and organizations. Staff responded to 36 media calls and 192 public calls, and issued three news releases that highlighted the winners of the 2010 Kids Calendar contest, the court decision favoring the District in a lawsuit challenging the Indirect Source rule and the launch of the 2010 Burn Cleaner program.

Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 181 incentive program applications in January. Of those, 167 were for the Wood Stove Change Out program (Burn Cleaner).
- \$1,361,596.37 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in January.
- \$2,993,732.34 paid out in Heavy-Duty Engine Program claims in January.
 - Ag Engines – 47 \$1,020,585.83
 - On-Road VIP – 1 \$ 30,000.00
 - On-Road Prop 1B – 15 \$ 660,000.00
 - Off Road – 11 \$ 422,262.24
 - Electric Forklift – 4 \$ 33,549.12
 - School Bus Replacement – 5 \$ 693,276.64
 - School Bus Retrofit – 29 \$ 114,058.51

Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions

- NOx 461
- PM 201
- ROG 5

Total 667 tons

- \$371,250 in REMOVE II program claims were paid in January.

January Operations Overview

- **The District** received 97 environmental documents for review in January.
- **Planning** held no rule or plan workshops last month.
- **Compliance** conducted 2,095 inspections, issued 390 NOVS and resolved 326 mutual settlement cases.
- **Permits** received 365 applications and issued 1,375 permits.
- **ERIP** received 16 smoking vehicle reports last month.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board
9 a.m. Thurs., March 18

Citizens Advisory Committee
10 a.m. Tues., March 2

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.