

# District Highlights

## April 21, 2011 Actions by the Governing Board

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- District staff presented a comprehensive end-of-the-season report on the **2010-2011 wood-burning season**. The public continued to play a big role in improving the Valley's air quality by observing wood-burning curtailments and by taking advantage of the District's incentive programs for cleaner-burning devices. The report detailed the District's "Check Before You Burn" and related Healthy Air Living outreach, the air quality and public health benefits from implementation of District Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters), and statistics of compliance activities and the Burn Cleaner Community Incentive Grant.
- To increase participation in and improve access to the **Public Transportation and Commuter Vanpool Subsidy Component of the REMOVE Program**, the Board approved several changes in the program's operation:
  - Increase the funding cap from an \$20 to \$35 per pound for emission reductions;
  - Shift to a voucher-based program to streamline program implementation and enhance flexibility for partnering vanpool agencies and participants;
  - Amend program requirements to better fund vanpools for Valley residents who commute to areas outside the District.

The Board also authorized the Executive Director to work with neighboring air districts to develop regional vanpool and public transportation projects. Mobile sources account for more than half of the air basin's overall emissions and encouraging viable transportation alternatives is critical to reducing air pollution.

- The Board approved a model proposal to provide community-wide **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory services** to Valley cities and counties. The Board also approved an \$89,500 memorandum of understanding with Kern County to provide GHG inventory services. Federal and state GHG reduction goals continue to require the dedication of significant resources by businesses and municipalities.
- The Board approved the creation of a new **Public Benefit Grants program** in order to fund clean-air projects in partnership with local government agencies and public educational institutions in the Valley that benefit Valley residents.
- The Board approved amendments to **Rule 2201** (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule). The amendments incorporate federal PM2.5 New Source Review (NSR) permitting requirements and resolve the EPA's issue with the method the District uses to refer to the state's limited exemption from offsets for agricultural operations.
- The Board received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 3170** (Federally Mandated Ozone Nonattainment Fee). The District needs to amend Rule 3170 to address EPA disapproval issues and develop an alternative fee-equivalent program to satisfy the fee requirements of section 185 of the federal Clean Air Act. The Board also received and filed proposed amendments to **Rule 4307** (Boilers, Steam Generators and Process Heaters – 2.0 MMBtu/hr to 5.0 MMBtu/hr) and to **Rule 4354** (Glass Melting Furnaces). May 19 was set for public hearings to consider adoption of these amendments.

## April Healthy Air Living Tip

*Each weekend, approximately 54 million Americans mow their lawns. According to EPA, one gas-powered mower emits as much hourly pollution as 11 cars and a riding mower emits as much as 34 cars. Annual lawnmower use in the U.S. emits as much pollution as driving an average car 1 trillion miles, or 2 million trips to the moon and back!*

*Tip: You can receive a substantial discount toward the purchase of a new electric mower. For more information about the District's Clean Green Yard Machines program, click on: <http://www.valleyair.org/newsed/general-CGYMwebpage.pdf>.*

## April District Activities

### *Outreach and Communications*

- Visit the Air District booth at one of the dozens of outreach events staff is attending this spring and register to **win an electric lawnmower!** Events are listed on [facebook.com/valleyair](http://facebook.com/valleyair). And if you have a health or employee fair planned or if your organization needs a speaker, contact us about attending. Just complete the speaker request form on the District home page: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).
- "Blue Sky, Brown Sky...it's up to you!" is the District's **free air quality curriculum** for elementary students in grades K-5. It has recently been updated and is available for Valley classrooms. Order forms are available on the website under Programs. Teachers also can order now or over the summer for fall 2011 delivery.
- Outreach and Communications responded to 98 public calls or emails and 21 media calls in March. Four news releases were distributed to Valley-wide media and staff participated in 12 Healthy Air Living presentations or events.

### *Grant and Incentive Programs*

- The Valley Air District's popular **electric lawn mower trade-in program** is back! Valley residents can replace their polluting, gas-powered mower with a clean, electric Neuton mower for \$50 for a 14-inch blade model or \$100 for the 19-inch mower. Vouchers must be requested in advance by phone and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The Governing Board authorized the funding in combination with a state grant. The District also partnered with the Sierra Club and the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment in Kern County to provide additional vouchers for the Valley portion of Kern. Check the website for details.
- The District received 138 **incentive program applications** in March. Of those, 72 were for the Wood-Stove Change Out Program and 60 were for the Heavy-Duty Engine Program. \$79,600 in Wood-Stove Change Out claims were paid in March and 137 claims were processed.
- \$2,326,523.56 in Heavy-Duty Engine Program and REMOVE II Program grant funds were placed under contract in March. \$19,602 in REMOVE II claims and \$7,583,156.41 in Heavy-Duty Engine claims were paid in March.

Component	Number of Claims	Amount Paid
Ag Engine	39	\$ 805,393.30
Off-Road	5	\$ 365,474.63
On-Road	7	\$ 32,478.25
On-Road Prop 1B	79	\$ 3,935,000.00

School Bus Replacement	13	\$ 850,540.52
School Bus Retrofit	190	\$ 1,594,269.71

### Heavy-Duty Emission Reductions (tons)

	• NOx	272
	• PM	10
	• ROG	<u>25</u>
Total		307

### Operations Overview

- **Compliance** completed 4,410 inspections in March. 189 NOVS were issued and 339 mutual settlement cases were completed.
- **Permits** received 202 applications in March and issued 269 permits.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 25 smoking vehicle reports in March.
- **The District** received 103 environmental documents for review.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***  
9 a.m. Thurs., May 19

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***  
10 a.m. Tues., May 3

**Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.**  
5:30 pm Tues., April 26

Meetings are held in the Governing Board Room in the Fresno office and via video teleconference to the Modesto and Bakersfield offices. Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

\*webcast