

District Highlights

April 19, 2012 Actions by the Governing Board

The Governing Board heard a report on the **2011-2012 Check Before You Burn season**. Because of historically poor meteorological conditions this past winter, the air basin saw an unusually high number of wood-burning curtailments. However, these curtailments prevented levels of PM_{2.5} from escalating even higher. Analysis in the report demonstrated that, without the program, air quality would have deteriorated even more severely. The Board thanked the public for its help in reducing these harmful emissions by not using their wood-burning fireplaces during curtailment days.

- The Board approved a contract with Jeffrey Scott Advertising for **advertising and multilingual public outreach campaigns** including \$185,000 to promote Healthy Air Living, Air Alert and wood-burning curtailments as well as up to \$75,000 to promote District grants and incentive programs.
- The Board approved the District's **Annual Air Toxics Report** and directed staff to distribute it to county Boards of Supervisors, City Councils and local health officers and to post it on the District's website (www.valleyair.org). The Annual Air Toxics Report is the District's opportunity to share with the public its progress in implementing AB 2588, the Air Toxics Hot Spots Information and Assessment Act of 1987. This year, the analysis demonstrates that there are no industrial sources of toxic air contaminants subject to the law in the Valley that create a significant health risk. The report also summarizes other District activities related to air toxics. For example, the District performs health risk assessments before issuing permits to assure that no new toxic hot spots are created and implements regulations to minimize exposures to existing toxic air contaminants, such as diesel particulate emissions.
- The Board approved a new, voluntary \$30,000 pilot incentive program for **alternatives to professionally managed pyrotechnic fireworks displays**. Fourth of July fireworks displays take place during the height of the summer ozone season and often during times of already poor air quality. Over the years the District's air monitoring network has recorded high levels of particulate matter with the potential for serious health impacts to Valley residents during the holiday. The grant will fund laser light shows, which are becoming popular in many parts of the country as a clean-air alternative to fireworks.
- The **2012 Landscape, Lawn Care and Air Quality Conference** drew more than 100 attendees in the landscaping industry to Fresno to hear about the health effects of emissions generated by lawn care maintenance, looked at challenges to reducing those emissions and potential alternatives. A new \$500,000 grant will fund a cordless zero emission commercial lawn and garden demonstration project that will test the potential for using battery-operated equipment in the commercial sector.
- The Board heard that detailed analyses are underway as the District develops draft components of the **2012 PM_{2.5} Plan**, which is due to EPA by December 2012. Using the Guiding Principles adopted by the Governing Board in February 2012, the District has been analyzing PM_{2.5} trends, emissions inventory trends, potential emission reduction opportunities and plan health benefits. The District has also been collaborating with ARB on modeling efforts to predict future PM_{2.5} air quality and the magnitude of emissions reductions that will be needed for attainment. Extensive public outreach on plan development is in progress, including regular presentations at CAC and EJAG meetings, upcoming community group meetings, a District/ARB technical symposium on April 27 and a draft plan workshop on April 30.
- The Board approved an agreement with **Kern Green** in the amount of \$11,500 to recruit and retain businesses in the Healthy Air Living Partner program. Kern Green will work to integrate the Partner program into its Green Business Certification Program and advance the District's clean-air goals by increasing the number of participating businesses.

April Healthy Air Living Tip

Using solar energy to supply power to a million homes would reduce NO_x emissions by 29 million lbs. per year – equal to removing about 750,000 cars from the road. **TIP:** To reduce NO_x emissions and help improve the Valley’s air quality, consider installing a solar panel system on your home. For more clean air tips, see www.healthyairliving.com.

March District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In addition to the 2012 Air Quality Conference, OC staff also organized a Drive Clean Workshop in March. The Drive Clean workshop gave Fresno residents a chance to test drive plug-in electric vehicles. Outreach and Communications responded to 83 public calls or emails and 18 media calls in March. Three news releases were distributed to Valley-wide media. As spring got underway, District staff took part in 21 outreach events or presentations around the Valley.

Grant and Incentive Programs

Program	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid	
	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts sent out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Claims paid	Sum of Grant Funding
Heavy Duty	45	65	\$5,260,008.09	70	\$3,690,989.31	90	\$3,482,706.54
School Bus	85	1	\$33,468.68	3	\$167,199.02	175	\$4,402,931.64
On-Road Prop 1B	0	23	\$3,310,000	12	\$2,360,000	5	\$180,000
Lawn and Garden	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
REMOVE	49	1,310	\$486,330	1310	\$542,360.78	11	\$446,572.97
Burn Cleaner	47	48	\$27,000	48	\$27,000	132	\$68,100
Technology Advancement	0	2	\$570,534	3	\$821,364	0	\$0.00
Public Benefit	23	1	\$60,000	6	\$462,122.74	1	\$6,408.72
Totals	249	1450	\$ 9,747,340.77	1452	\$ 8,071,035.85	414	\$ 8,586,719.87

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NO _x	PM	ROG	Total
1,000	45	74	1,119

Operations Overview

- Compliance** completed 3,470 inspections in March. 178 NOVS were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 281.
- Permits** received 245 applications in March and issued 830 permits.
- Strategies and Incentives** received 30 smoking vehicle reports.
- The District** received 136 environmental documents for review.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9 am Thurs., May 17

(Special Study Session May 2-3)

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10 am Tues., May 1

Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.

5:30 pm Thurs., April 26

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

*Webcast