

# District Highlights

November 13, 2014 Actions by the Governing Board

## **Healthy Air Living Schools Program Elements Approved to Enhance Outreach to Schools, Parents and Children**

The Governing Board approved an agreement with the Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC) to work with schools and county asthma coalitions throughout the Valley to promote the Healthy Air Living Schools program, the District's Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), the school-based No-Idling/Alternative Transportation Campaign and the Clean Air Champions program.

CCAC will work with local asthma coalitions to enroll schools throughout the District in RAAN, and introduce new components of Healthy Air Living Schools, including the in-depth, hands-on Clean Air Champions program. CCAC aims to engage more schools, parents and students in educating and empowering themselves regarding air quality issues. CCAC will be working to educate schools on the more health protective and flexible RAAN program while transitioning schools away from the older less health protective Flag Program.

The District will also continue a successful partnership with ValleyPBS (central and southern regions) and KVIE (northern region) to promote the Healthy Air Living program and the free Healthy Air Living Kids Kit. Since the District began working with public television in 2011, more than 10,000 kits, consisting of workbooks and supporting materials, have been distributed free of charge to children Valley-wide. ValleyPBS and KVIE will produce numerous local TV spots and programming emphasizing Healthy Air Living.

## **District to Resubmit 1-hour Ozone Clean Data Finding for 2012-2014 Period**

Despite strings of triple-digit temperatures, prolonged stagnation periods, and air quality impacts from wildfires, the Valley again completed an ozone season (2014) without recording an exceedance of the federal 1-hour ozone standard. This historic ozone progress has only been made possible through the significant investment and sacrifice of Valley businesses and residents to reduce air pollution. With a clean 2014 season, the District will now resubmit to ARB and EPA a clean data finding for the federal 1-hour ozone standard for the 2012-2014 period. Significant progress has also been made in reducing 8-hour ozone concentrations in the Valley as follows:

- Valley residents' exposure to ozone concentrations above the 8-hour ozone standards, has been reduced significantly. For the three-year period from 2012 through 2014, with a neighborhood by neighborhood accounting for population exposure to ozone concentrations, on average, Valley residents were exposed to ozone concentrations above the standards for the fewest number of days.
- Valley experienced the longest stretch of consecutive days in July and August without violating the 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard.
- Valley experienced cleanest August on record: 17 days without an 8-hour ozone exceedance (75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard).

- The number of days when the 75 ppb 8-hour ozone standard was exceeded anywhere in the Valley was the lowest during the typical peak ozone season (May through September), which is apparent through a variety of metrics.

In addition, through stringent control measures adopted by the District, mobile source measures adopted by ARB, and the District's robust voluntary incentive program, the "black box" that was a part of the *2007 Ozone Plan* has been satisfied and the Valley is on track to meet attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by 2023.

### **Additional Revenue from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Allocated to Fund the Replacement of Medium Duty Trucks**

The Governing Board accepted and appropriated an award of \$677,214 in additional incentive funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund the replacement of approximately 48 medium duty trucks within the San Joaquin Valley. Due to the District's successful advocacy efforts and reputation for administering successful and effective voluntary incentive programs, the District was selected for full funding through a highly competitive Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) fiscal year 2014 National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. This award represents over half of the available funding for this program in EPA Region 9 and will be utilized for the replacement of medium duty trucks that will provide many years of much-needed surplus emission reductions in the Valley.

### **Additional \$2,000,000 in Funding Allocated for Continued Implementation of the Highly Successful Burn Cleaner Incentive Program to Support the District's Efforts to Reduce the Impacts of Residential Wood Burning**

Subsequent to the Governing Board's September 2014 action to adopt enhancements to the residential wood burning rule and the Burn Cleaner Incentive Program, the District engaged in an extensive public outreach and education campaign to promote public participation. These efforts have proven to be highly successful, resulting in a significant increase in grant applications that exhausted the initial \$2,100,000 allocation approved by the Board. Given the high demand and the great return in public health benefits, the Board allocated an additional \$2,000,000 to ensure that Valley residents have the opportunity to upgrade their wood burning devices to cleaner burning devices. To accommodate this increase, \$2,000,000 was shifted from the Hybrid Truck and Bus Voucher Program (HVIP) Plus-Up Program to the Burn Cleaner Program. Due to recent changes to the program at the state level, District funding for the HVIP Plus-Up Program was no longer necessary and HVIP Plus-Up allocation was shifted without any detriment to the District's clean truck deployment efforts. The District may return to the Board at a later date to request additional funding and/or input on the program.

### **District Receives Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

The Governing Board accepted the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the GFOA's highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, for the District's fiscal year 2012-13 CAFR. This is the first year that the District has received this award, representing a significant achievement for the District and representing its commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental reporting and transparency to the public. To earn this award, the CAFR was judged by an impartial panel as meeting the high standards of the GFOA program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the District's financial story and motivate the public to read the CAFR.

## November Healthy Air Living Tip

A traditional fireplace emits large amounts of harmful fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and does a poor job of heating your home. Installing an EPA certified woodstove or pellet stove can reduce your PM2.5 emissions by up to 98% while significantly increasing your fireplace's heating efficiency.

Ref: <http://www.valleyair.org>

**Tip: The Air District's Burn Cleaner program has increased incentives to help you upgrade your fireplace! Upgrade to a cleaner burning device, and take advantage of more burn days by registering your clean burning device at [www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration).**

**And don't forget to Check Before You Burn this winter: [www.valleyair.org/CBYB](http://www.valleyair.org/CBYB) or 1-800 SMOG INFO.**

For more clean air tips, see [www.healthyairliving.com](http://www.healthyairliving.com).

## September District Activities

### Outreach and Communications

- Outreach and Communications conducted media outreach to emphasize a no-idling message as schools throughout the air basin reopened for the fall. Staff also did concerted public outreach for entries in the annual kids' calendar contest and continued developing new materials for upcoming wood-burning seasons.
- OC staff responded to 21 media calls and 191 public calls and emails, attended three events and presentations, and issued six news releases in September.

### Grant and Incentive Programs

- The District received 523 incentive program applications. 220 were for the Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 49 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- \$3,584,155 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and 83 claims were paid.
- \$496,321 was paid out in REMOVE II program claims.
- \$13,100 was paid in Burn Cleaner program claims and 25 claims were processed.

September 2014	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	49	50	\$2,995,016.88	105	\$3,584,155.74	81	\$2,510,070.20	
School Bus	0	3	\$750,008.68	13	\$1,780,502.67	5	\$20,663.55	
On-Road Prop 1B	0	63	\$2,743,900.00	69	\$2,906,700.00	7	\$265,000.00	
Lawn and Garden	13	15	\$3,423.43	15	\$3,423.43	11	\$2,423.43	
REMOVE	223	194	\$261,340.00	195	\$290,229.00	2,336	\$496,321.25	
Burn Cleaner	220	79	\$115,250.00	79	\$115,250.00	25	\$13,100.00	
Technology Advancement	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	9	\$542,095.14	
Public Benefit	16	8	\$2,344,911.70	9	\$1,751,172.62	9	\$171,589.36	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>\$9,213,850.69</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>\$10,431,433.46</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>\$4,021,262.93</b>	

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
Nox	PM	ROG	Total

## **Operations Overview**

- **Compliance** completed 2,391 inspections. 190 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 129.
- **Permits** received 283 applications. 220 permits were issued.
- **Strategies and Incentives** received 35 smoking vehicle reports.
- **The District** received 148 environmental documents.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**Governing Board\***

**9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18**

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***

**10 a.m. Tues., Dec. 2**

**Environmental Justice Adv. Grp.**

**5 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 4**

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