

Actions by the Governing Board – December 17, 2020

Governing Board Extends Emergency Economic Assistance Relief Measure in response to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has sent the Valley into uncharted territory, and the economic impacts to the United States and the world are significant and far-reaching. The Valley and nation are currently facing uncertain economic times that are proving to be devastating to local Valley businesses and residents. In April 2020, the District Governing Board authorized temporary but critical emergency economic relief measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support Valley residents and businesses during the current crisis. The actions contained in the District's COVID-19 Economic Assistance Initiative are intended to provide a measure of relief to the residents and businesses that the District regulates and to the community as a whole without sacrificing any environmental safeguards. The measures contained in the District's COVID-19 Economic Assistance Initiative were currently set to expire December 31, 2020. Given the current state of the pandemic with new stay-at-home orders now in place across the Valley, the Governing Board acted to extend the Economic Assistance Initiative through the end of 2021.

Adopt Proposed Commercial Underfired Charbroiling Emission Reduction Strategy

The District's *2018 PM_{2.5} Plan* includes commitments to evaluate potential emission reductions from underfired charbroilers, but the unavailability of feasible and cost-effective controls has been a barrier to establishing regulations for these units. The unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to the restaurant industry has further exacerbated this challenge. In recognition of these impacts, the Governing Board adopted a multipronged strategy to promote emission reductions, while minimizing the impact on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The adopted strategy includes the following elements: (1) enhancing the Restaurant Charbroiler Technology Partnership incentive program, (2) developing guidance for interested cities/counties for commercial underfired charbroilers, (3) assisting CARB in the development of the new statewide Suggested Control Measures for controlling emissions from underfired charbroiling, (4) working with CARB and EPA to update emissions inventory and attainment modeling to assist the District and CARB in developing new control strategies, and (5) forming a new restaurant working group to collaboratively explore opportunities for underfired charbroiling control technologies. The implementation of this strategy and the development of potential regulations for commercial underfired charbroilers will be ongoing in 2021.

Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 4311 (Flares)

District Rule 4311 limits emissions of NO_x, SO_x, and VOC emissions from the operation of flares in the Valley. Per commitments included in the District's *2016 Ozone Plan* and *2018 PM_{2.5} Plan*, the Governing Board amended Rule 4311 to remove exemptions for non-major source facilities and landfill facilities, and to establish requirements for the installation of ultra-low NO_x control systems for flares used in oil and gas operations, at landfills, and at wastewater treatment facilities. Operators are required to reduce flaring below applicable thresholds, or to install ultra-low NO_x flare technology by 2024. NO_x, PM, and VOC emission reductions achieved through the implementation of this rule amendment will contribute towards the Valley's attainment of the health-based federal PM_{2.5} and ozone standards.

Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 4306 (Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters – Phase 3) and Rule 4320 (Advanced Emission Reduction Options for Boilers, Steam Generators, And Process Heaters Greater Than 5.0 MMBTU/HR)

The Governing Board adopted amendments to District Rules 4306 and 4320. These amendments are the latest in a series of rulemaking efforts that have resulted in significant emissions reductions from large boilers, steam generators, and process heaters. These units are used in a variety of different Valley industries including electrical utilities, oil and gas production, food and agricultural processing, and service and commercial facilities. The *2018 PM2.5 Plan* includes commitments to further reduce NOx emissions from this source category. In support of this commitment, the adopted amendments to Rules 4306 and 4320 include lower NOx emissions limits for a variety of unit classes and categories, as well as establishing dates for the submission of required emission control plans, authority to construct applications, and final compliance deadlines. NOx emission reductions achieved through the implementation of these requirements will contribute towards the Valley's attainment of the health-based federal PM2.5 and ozone standards.

Governing Board Approves Implementation of Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive Programs in AB 617 Communities

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved the implementation of the Residential and Commercial Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive programs within the AB 617 communities of South Central Fresno and Shafter. These programs, that provide incentives to replace gas-powered lawn care equipment with clean, zero-emission equipment, were prioritized by community steering committees in both Shafter and South Central Fresno. The District will administer these programs utilizing the Board-adopted guidelines for the District's residential and commercial Clean Green Yard Machine Programs, with proposed funding enhancements for these two communities. The plans adopted for these communities included dedicated funding of up to \$100,000 for Shafter and \$200,000 for South Central Fresno for these programs.

Governing Board Approves 2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved the *2020 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning*. The 2020 Report provides staff recommendations on the feasibility of further potential prohibitions on agricultural burning in the Valley, and establishes the final framework for the phase-out, as feasible, of remaining crop categories. The recommendations also include a call for increased and sustained federal, state, and local incentive funding to assist with widespread transition to costly new alternatives, and the establishment of technology demonstration partnerships with agricultural stakeholders, CARB, and USDA-NRCS to assist with the final stages of development of feasible alternatives. In support of the transition to alternatives agricultural burning, the Board also approved an increased funding allocation for the Alternatives to Open Burning of Agricultural Materials Incentive Pilot Program by an additional \$7,000,000 for the continued implementation of this program. The program provides incentives to agricultural operations located within Valley Air District boundaries to chip or shred agricultural material for soil incorporation or land application on agricultural land as an alternative to the open burning of the agricultural materials.

November District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In November, the District augmented its highly successful grant program with over \$30 million in additional U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding to replace old dirty agricultural tractors and harvesters. This grant funding will help to significantly reduce emissions in the Ag community. To read more on this topic, please visit [Valley Air News](#).
- District staff also encouraged Valley residents to register their wood burning devices. Residents who have invested in clean wood burning devices such as EPA Certified wood/pellet stoves and inserts, should register their devices with the District for use when the Check Before You Burn declaration is “No Burning Unless Registered.” To register your device, visit: www.valleyair.org/CBYBregistration.
- In November, District staff responded to 9 media calls, 46 public calls, and 29 emails, and attended two event/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In November, the District received 1443 incentive program applications. 755 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 250 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In November, \$10,273,056.61 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$9,143,382.75 in claims was paid.
- In November, \$1,799,787.78 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In November, \$540,873.23 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	November 2020	Applications	Grants Offered		Grants Executed		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number Received & Entered	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Number of Contracts Executed	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
Burn Cleaner	Burn Cleaner – Wood Stove Change Out	755	613	\$1,512,000.00	613	\$1,512,000.00	\$540,873.23
CAP & Trade	Demonstration – New Electric Vehicle	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$82,622.02
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	64	55	\$1,630,386.00	55	\$1,630,386.00	\$178,380.00
	Ag Engine Alt Fuel to Electric	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	0	1	\$42,000.00	1	\$3,750.00	\$19,500.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	20	46	\$621,000.00	46	\$621,000.00	\$65,364.41
	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	0	0	\$0.00	2	\$1,303,845.34	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	159	96	\$5,645,790.84	96	\$5,804,318.33	\$5,332,723.62
	Off-Road Engine Repower	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$339,300.00

	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	18	\$909,651.07	12	\$407,679.82	\$531,290.91
	On-Road Ag Truck Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$273,119.55
	On-Road New Purchase	0	26	\$520,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$160,000.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	5	14	\$904,228.70	7	\$540,823.73	\$1,680,743.63
	On-Road TVP Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	3	\$1,124,977.29	\$0.00
	Yard Truck Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$131,506.78	\$544,960.63
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	2	7	\$5,326.89	7	\$5,326.89	\$110,920.69
	Residential New Purchase	48	63	\$2,947.99	63	\$2,947.99	\$2,674.00
	Residential Replacement	28	72	\$15,049.50	72	\$15,049.50	\$13,599.50
Light Duty	Charge Up - Public	2	1	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
	Drive Clean - EV Vehicle Rebate	208	161	\$448,000.00	161	\$448,000.00	\$561,000.00
	EFMP Replacement	29	57	\$518,500.00	57	\$518,500.00	\$760,500.00
	TITU Admin/Events	8	4	\$9,764.04	4	\$9,764.04	\$11,940.27
	TITU Payroll	9	3	\$45,671.29	3	\$45,671.29	\$45,671.29
	TITU Repairs	80	60	\$294,507.35	60	\$294,507.35	\$390,526.22
	Van Pool Agency CFP	7	8	\$29,220.00	8	\$29,220.00	\$30,150.00
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	16	5	\$100,000.00	20	\$388,934.30	\$196,605.52
Remove II	Alternate Fuel Training	0	1	\$14,570.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement School Bus	0	2	\$800,000.00	2	\$779,998.78	\$0.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	3	\$480,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	0	8	\$3,200,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Totals	1443	1324	\$17,768,613.67	1295	\$15,651,207.43	\$11,890,465.49

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
737	550	311	1,598

Smoking Vehicles	3
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Operations Overview

- Completed 1,788 inspections in November and 280 NOVs were issued. Mutual settlement case completions totaled 136.
- Received 170 permit applications in November, and 114 permits were issued.
- Received 144 environmental documents in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Jan. 21

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Feb. 2

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Jan. 28

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.

Details: www.valleyair.org

**Webcast*