

Actions by the Governing Board – April 21, 2022

Approve Enhancements to the District's Truck Replacement Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved enhancements to the District's Truck Replacement Program to expand program eligibility for truck owners. Until recently, existing state guidelines had not adequately evolved to provide significant opportunities for voluntary incentive programs to achieve surplus emission reductions for large segments of the statewide heavy-duty truck population. This had led to a significant slowdown in voluntary truck replacements through this program. The District worked closely with the State and other air districts to propose enhancements that would expand funding opportunities, including expanded truck model-year eligibility, increased funding caps for zero and near-zero emission trucks and increased administrative flexibility to facilitate a more streamlined process. The District staff is working closely with CARB on implementation of these enhancements to ensure they meet the needs of the trucking industry in converting to zero and near-zero emission technology.

Approve Launch of District Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement and Fueling Infrastructure Incentive Program

Reducing emissions from mobile sources is a key District strategy to meet federal ambient air quality standards and is an important element of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) State Implementation Plan (SIP) strategy for the San Joaquin Valley. Of particular concern are emissions from heavy duty vehicles, including school buses operating in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, there have been several health studies conducted that highlight the significant health benefits of reducing children's exposure to toxic air contaminants from school buses. For these reasons, for the past 25 years, the District has administered several incentive programs to reduce emissions from and exposure to in-use school buses and replace aging school buses with the cleanest available technology. The District has administered our local Zero-Emission School Bus Incentive Program for the past several years as funding has been available. However, for the past three years the District has administered the School, Transit and Shuttle Bus component of the Volkswagen NOx Mitigation program, not only within the Valley, but statewide. Due to the high demand in this program and oversubscription for these funds within the Valley, it is clear that additional funding is necessary. In response to this need and consistent with the Board's established priorities, the District will re-launch the local Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement and Fueling Infrastructure Incentive Program using available Community Air Protection and locally generated motor vehicle surcharge funding included in the District's 2021-22 Budget. Eligible school bus projects must serve school districts located within (or provide service to) a designated disadvantaged community or low income community within the District boundaries.

Public Facing Air Quality Information Tools

In the twelve years since the development of the District's RAAN and ROAR tools, a significant number of new tools have been launched by both public and private entities to provide the public with air quality information and activity recommendations. In addition, there is increasing interest and concern from the public statewide regarding air quality impacts during major wildfires and other extreme air quality events. While many of these tools rely on data being pulled from District air monitoring sites, the increasing number and variety of tools within this arena can cause confusion with the public on which tool to use and what action should be taken to best protect themselves during episodes of poor air quality. Consistent with the District's core value of continuous improvement, the Governing Board discussed the growing availability of public-facing air quality information and potential opportunities for enhancing air quality communication tools and strategies, including RAAN, AirNow, IQAir, BreezoMeter, and other tools. Through a collaborative and ongoing process, the Governing Board also directed staff to work closely with health researchers, school staff and administrators, state education and air quality agencies, county health officers, key stakeholders

and others to convene a working group to further evaluate this issue and develop potential enhancements.

District's Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Transition

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved the electric vehicle fleet transition plan of converting the District fleet to full electric over the next 5 years. Since 2020, the District has purchased two plug-in hybrid vehicles and six electric vehicles as part of a pilot project to assess the effectiveness of electric vehicles when conducting District business. As the most extensive user of District fleet vehicles, the District's Compliance department has been utilizing four all-electric vehicles and have driven them approximately 6,000 miles each, with no negative impacts to their ability to continue to perform their job duties, including performing inspections and providing timely responses to public complaints. Additionally, the electric vehicles have demonstrated a lower total cost of operation due to lower fuel and maintenance costs compared to traditional gasoline vehicles.

Continued Success of Residential Wood Burning Emissions Reduction Strategy during 2021-2022 Wood Burning Season

The Governing Board heard a comprehensive report on the 2021-2022 Winter Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. This was the second season to be implemented under the 2019 amendments to the wood-burning rule, which significantly increased the number of no-burn days in the Hot Spot counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kern. As described in more detail below, the Valley achieved the following PM2.5 air quality milestones during the 2021-2022 winter season:

- Maintained significant progress in reducing average PM2.5 concentrations across all counties despite the fifth strongest average atmospheric stability during the winter season
- Maintained continued progress in increasing number of "Good" and "Moderate" AQI days across all of the counties in the District
- Recorded zero exceedances of the 65 µg/m³ federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard for a third consecutive year, contributing to the Valley's ongoing attainment of this standard
- Winter season PM2.5 speciation analysis shows that air quality has greatly improved for key components of PM2.5 as a result of the District's Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy, Burn Cleaner grant program, and other air quality improvement strategies

This winter season also included the successful implementation of the Burn Cleaner program, with over \$3.9 million in funding for over 1,500 vouchers issued for residents to upgrade to clean wood burning devices during 2021-22. Nearly 95% of the funding was using to purchase natural gas devices. Since 2009, the District has issued over 26,000 vouchers for an allocation of over \$48.4 million.

This past winter saw another successful outreach campaign implemented with an increased emphasis on health impacts of woodsmoke through messaging within paid advertisements, educational videos, social media and other outreach opportunities. Valley residents expressing significant interest in residential wood burning and air quality with over 330,000 visits to the District's daily curtailment status webpage, over 35,000 calls to the District's 1-800-SMOG-INFO number, and over 400 complaints for suspected wood burning activity. The success of this past winter season would not have been possible without the commitment from Valley residents to reduce their wood burning emissions, coupled with the District's multi-faceted program that utilizes wood burning curtailments, incentives, public education/outreach, and strong enforcement to reduce wood smoke.

March District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In March, the District promoted the important updates to Drive Clean in the San Joaquin vehicle replacement program. An expansion of eligibility for vehicle model years 2006 and elimination of a failed emissions test to reduce a possible barrier for low-income residents who wanted to participate. Since the program began in 2014, the criteria eligibility was limited to vehicles with model years 1999 and older that did not pass emissions tests during weekend Tune In Tune Up events, along with other requirements, such as residency within a disadvantaged community. These criteria allowed the program to focus limited funding sources on helping Valley residents driving the highest polluters to switch to cleaner vehicles. To learn more about this program, visit valleyair.org/drivecleaninthesanjoaquin/replace.
- The District announced a move to GovDelivery to keep in touch with subscribers. The District recently switched its email notification service to GovDelivery, and subscribers have all been migrated to the new system. We have streamlined the subscription categories, which you can manage from a new “Subscription Preferences Page” that will allow you to customize your subscriptions, control frequency of notices, unsubscribe or change your email address. To check your subscription or sign up, visit: public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASJVAPCD/subscriber/new.
- In March, District staff responded to 13 media calls, 37 public calls, 10 emails, and participated in eight virtual events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In March, the District received 1,598 incentive program applications. 156 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 378 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In March, \$14,486,205.38 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$14,350,364.95 in claims was paid.
- In March, \$3,242,745.51 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In March, \$673,250.00 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	March 2022	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	156	170	\$435,000.00	170	\$435,000.00	\$673,250.00
CAP & Trade	Demonstration – New Electric Vehicle	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$115,991.66
Commuter Subsidy	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$8,492.00
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Fleet Expansion	0	5	\$1,399,110.84	5	\$1,399,110.84	\$3,339,389.49
	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	71	94	\$3,334,790.00	94	\$3,334,790.00	\$2,135,536.00
	Ag Engine Diesel to Electric	0	1	\$19,500.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	1	58	\$783,000.00	58	\$783,000.00	\$254,437.65

	Dairy Feed Mixer Electrification	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$3,171,382.41	\$0.00
	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Locomotive Replacement	5	1	\$1,467,992.39	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	241	86	\$6,905,428.76	138	\$9,095,468.99	\$6,540,124.64
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement 2 for 1	2	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	2	9	\$502,283.39	7	\$570,849.75	\$1,083,684.66
	Off-Road Non-Ag Vehicle Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$351,652.21
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	2	\$74,100.00	2	\$74,100.00	\$301,950.00
	On-Road Emergency Vehicle Replacement	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road New Purchase	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	52	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$343,590.30
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	4	9	\$8,738.60	9	\$8,738.60	\$83,741.00
	Residential New Purchase	95	64	\$3,125.00	64	\$3,125.00	\$2,799.50
	Residential Replacement	101	77	\$18,703.06	77	\$18,703.06	\$18,055.78
Light Duty	Charge Up EV Charger – Private	2	8	\$142,000.00	8	\$142,000.00	\$21,801.66
	Charge Up EV Charger – Public	5	21	\$629,000.00	21	\$629,000.00	\$251,585.25
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	563	571	\$1,663,000.00	571	\$1,663,000.00	\$1,235,000.00
	EFMP EV Charger – Residential	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$11,195.54
	EFMP Replacement	106	59	\$514,500.00	59	\$514,500.00	\$646,500.00
	TITU Admin/Events	8	3	\$37,377.98	3	\$37,377.98	\$37,377.98
	TITU Payroll	10	12	\$295,638.51	12	\$295,638.51	\$435,778.70
	TITU Repairs	130	120	\$604,438.47	120	\$604,438.47	\$586,526.38
Van Pool Agency CFP	7	6	\$7,830.00	6	\$7,830.00	\$16,980.00	
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	33	5	\$100,000.00	28	\$554,289.28	\$237,156.42

VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement School Bus	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$2,400,000.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	2	\$320,000.00	2	\$320,000.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	0	3	\$540,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		1,598	1,386	\$19,805,557.00	1,455	\$23,662,342.89	\$21,132,596.82

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
1,087	594	531	2,212

Smoking Vehicles	0
------------------	---

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*
9:00 AM, May 19

Citizens Advisory Committee*
10:00 AM, Jun. 7

Environmental Justice Advisory Group
5:30 PM, Jun. 23

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.
Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast