

Actions by the Governing Board – Sept. 15, 2022

Enhancements to the District's Woodstove and Fireplace Change-out Program to Provide Increased Incentives for the Installation of Electric or Natural Gas Devices

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved enhancements to the District's Woodstove and Fireplace Change-out Program to offer increased incentives for Valley residents for the replacement of high-polluting wood burning devices. Since 2006, the District has offered incentives for the change-out of old, high-polluting open-hearth fireplaces or uncertified devices with new cleaner, certified units. The program has provided the resources necessary for thousands of Valley residents to make positive changes in their residential wood-burning practices and is a significant part of the District's overall strategy to reduce the impacts of residential wood burning. In response to increasing prices for new devices and associated labor, and to ensure continued strong participation in this key program, the District Governing Board approved increased incentives for the cleanest new devices and added a new funding category for fireplace decommissioning.

Verbal Report on Wildfire Season

The Governing Board received an update on the 2022 wildfire season, including details of the drought status in the Valley, recent wildfire activity in the region that has affected the Valley's air quality, and resulting elevated PM2.5 and ozone concentrations. During the wildfire season, the District takes action to notify the public of when air quality impacts were occurring through issuing health cautionary statements, Air Quality Alerts issued through the National Weather Service, the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) available on-line and through the Valley Air mobile device app, our dedicated dynamic wildfire webpage, and through responding to numerous public calls and media requests.

The Governing Board also heard an update the recently launched Clean Air Center and Clean Air Rooms pilot programs, providing funding to establish clean rooms in public spaces for use during wildfire events, and installing home air filtration devices, respectively. Interest in these new programs has continued to grow through the summer season, with a significant number of home air filtration devices already distributed, along with progress in establishing public Clean Air Centers in Valley communities.

Implementation of Agricultural Open Burn Phase-Out Strategy

The Governing Board heard an update on the ongoing phase-out of agricultural open burning in the San Joaquin Valley, including an update on the District's Alternatives to Agricultural Burning Incentive Program. Since the launch of the program in 2018, the District has seen a very strong demand for this program, which includes more than \$25 million in local funding and over \$178 million in state funding for alternative practices and expansion of chipping equipment fleets. Since the incentive program was re-launched in September 2021, the demand for the program has increased substantially. Over the life of the program, the District has obligated nearly \$30 million for equipment fleet expansion, and over \$76 million to incentive the chipping and incorporation of woody waste. Due in part to the success of the incentive program, the recent trend in agricultural open burning continues to decline, with the year 2022 on track to be one of the lowest years on record for agricultural burning in the Valley. This sharp downward trend in agricultural open burning is balanced by the sharp increase in woody material being processed through the alternatives grant program. This ongoing positive trend is expected to continue as the phase-out strategy continues to be implemented over the coming years.

August District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In August, the District opened a third solicitation period for the Clean Air Center Pilot Program. Applicants may be eligible to receive portable air cleaners and replacement filters at no cost to operate as a Clean Air Center during their normal hours of operation. Existing cooling centers, businesses, schools and other facilities were encouraged to apply.
- As schools reopened for the fall season, the District asked parents to consider student health and turn off their engines when waiting to pick up their children at the end of the school day. Limiting vehicle idling at schools will help to reduce air pollution and student exposure to vehicle emissions. The District offered best practices to help reduce emissions. To learn more about the messaging, please visit [here](#).
- In August, District staff responded to 13 media calls, 23 public calls, 20 emails, and participated in three events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In August, the District received 3,305 incentive program applications. 87 were for the Burn Cleaner Wood Stove Change-Out Program and 1,116 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In August, \$24,605,769.10 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$14,702,399.21 in claims was paid.
- In August, \$2,651,576.23 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In August, \$185,875.00 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	August 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	87	80	\$175,000.00	80	\$175,000.00	\$185,875.00
Community Benefit	Residential New Device	1,129	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Fleet Expansion	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$2,715,642.72
	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	165	89	\$4,035,199.00	89	\$4,035,199.00	\$1,806,280.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	562	21	\$283,500.00	21	\$283,500.00	\$475,779.70
	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	3	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	306	178	\$16,332,890.79	175	\$15,420,892.57	\$7,352,793.36
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement 2 for 1	0	1	\$381,747.56	1	\$381,747.56	\$0.00

	Off-Road Engine Repower	0	2	\$728,125.10	0	\$0.00	\$391,931.16
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	8	18	\$1,462,508.25	10	\$796,980.29	\$1,341,638.20
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	0	\$0.00	2	\$84,500.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Used Ag Vehicle Replacement	3	4	\$676,161.48	3	\$657,525.42	\$0.00
	On-Road Ag Truck Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$618,334.07
	On-Road Emergency Vehicle Replacement	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road New Purchase	0	1	\$20,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	47	8	\$391,388.50	10	\$591,388.50	\$0.00
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	17	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Yard Truck Replacement	4	2	\$294,248.42	1	\$147,447.27	\$0.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	83	8	\$6,557.24	8	\$6,557.24	\$37,484.42
	Residential New Purchase	71	124	\$5,914.49	124	\$5,914.49	\$4,799.75
	Residential Replacement	93	183	\$43,415.66	183	\$43,415.66	\$37,420.66
Light Duty	Charge Up EV Charger – Private	8	2	\$100,000.00	2	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up EV Charger – Public	8	3	\$66,000.00	3	\$66,000.00	\$22,312.05
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	468	533	\$1,553,000.00	533	\$1,553,000.00	\$950,000.00
	EFMP Replacement	0	6	\$54,500.00	6	\$54,500.00	\$280,000.00
	E-Mobility Trip Reduction	0	1	\$40,500.00	1	\$40,500.00	\$0.00
	TITU Admin/Events	4	8	\$155,403.20	8	\$155,403.20	\$155,403.20
	TITU Payroll	8	6	\$179,628.20	6	\$179,628.20	\$179,628.20
	TITU Repairs	205	204	\$1,041,942.75	204	\$1,041,942.75	\$1,046,832.78
Van Pool Agency CFP	10	9	\$17,730.00	9	\$17,730.00	\$17,400.00	
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	13	0	\$0.00	12	\$240,000.00	\$159,775.91

	Clean Air Centers – Portable Devices	1	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Remove II	Alternate Fuel Training	0	0	\$0.00	1	\$11,500.00	\$0.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement School Bus	0	0	\$0.00	5	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00
	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	2	\$302,974.02	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Totals	3,305	1,493	\$28,348,334.66	1,497	\$28,090,272.15	\$17,781,331.18

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
1,247	772	699	2,718

Smoking Vehicles	1
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Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Oct. 20

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Dec. 6

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Oct. 27

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

Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast