

Actions by the Governing Board – Feb. 16, 2023

Approve Project Plan and Reallocate Community Air Protection Funding For New Residential Air Filtration Program within the AB 617 Communities of South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton

In a well-sealed indoor environment (e.g., windows and doors closed and sealed tightly), HEPA air filtration devices, such as those that will be offered under this program, can reduce particulate matter indoors by more than 90 percent. Use of air filtration devices to create “clean air rooms”, such as a bedroom, will ensure that the home has a dedicated space with safe indoor air quality during smoke events. To help mitigate the harmful health effects of wildfire smoke on Valley residents, and in particular the District’s most vulnerable populations, the Governing Board approved a program to build upon the success of the *2022 Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program*, which provided nearly 1,300 air purifiers at no cost to Valley residents in priority communities. In the newly approved program, the District will use Community Air Protection funding to provide residential air filtration units to residents in the AB 617 communities in South Central Fresno, Shafter, and Stockton. Residents who live in these communities who are interested in information about this program can visit the [AB 617 community boundary page](#) to determine their eligibility; additionally they can receive program updates by signing up for the AB 617: Residential Air Filtration Program [email notification list](#) or by calling or emailing District staff at 559-230-5800 or grants@valleyair.org.

Receive Update on District’s Agricultural Open Burning Phase-Out Strategy

The Valley Air District Governing Board received an update on the implementation of the District’s agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. The District is now in the process of implementing and enforcing updated requirements for the near-complete phase-out of remaining agricultural open burning in the Valley by January 1, 2025. Through the implementation of these updated requirements, the amount of agricultural material being open burned has continued to decrease. In fact, the reductions in agricultural open burning and use of alternatives mark record levels for the Valley since the institution of agricultural burning restrictions, highlighting the early success of the ongoing phase-out strategy. Staff also provided an update on the implementation of the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. This program, authorized in 2018, provides financial incentives to commercial agricultural operations located within the District boundaries to chip agricultural material. Since 2018, \$25,309,504 in local District funding has been allocated to this program. In August 2021, the District Governing Board accepted \$178,200,000 in additional state funding to be utilized in the program. Since re-launching the program in September 2021, the District has executed agreements for the deployment of alternative practices and for the deployment of new chipping/grinding equipment, for a total of \$109,911,362 in funding. To ensure the ongoing success of the program, the District Governing Board approved enhancements to the program including a 500 acre per year, per entity cap on incentives as well as a \$300 per acre increase in funding for small growers, less than 100 acres in the Valley.

Receive Update on Attainment Planning Efforts to Address Federal Standards

The Governing Board heard an update on the ongoing air quality planning and regulatory work that is expected for the District over the coming year and into the near future. This includes follow-up planning work for the PM_{2.5} standards, implementing the strategy within the recently adopted 2022 Ozone Plan, and other maintenance plan actions for PM₁₀ and ozone standards. The District also anticipates working through a high-level of regulatory measures from attainment plan commitments and fulfilling AB 617 requirements. In addition to these projects, the District provided an update on its analysis to fulfill planning contingency requirements, closely tracking federal and state mobile source measures, and exceptional events modeling and analysis to support attainment determinations.

January District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In January, the District celebrated with the California Air Resources Board and Frito-Lay to announce the near completion of the company’s Modesto, California, facility’s transformation into a first-of-its-kind showcase for sustainable manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution technologies. The upgrades in Modesto, employ the latest in sustainable technology to reduce environmental impact, while also offering employees on-the-job training to maintain and operate the new high-tech equipment. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this project reduces criteria and toxic pollutants emissions and helps the Valley meet federal goals for air pollution that in turn improve public health.
- The District held its first Fireplace Change-Out Show & Tell event in Shafter. Several dozen attendees from Shafter, Bakersfield and Wasco visited tables where hearth retailers from Bakersfield were waiting to answer fireplace questions, show examples of gas inserts and discuss the various cleaner option to change-out wood-or pellet-burning devices to heat a home. Approved applicants received a voucher worth up to \$5,000 to be used toward a new gas or electric residential heating device.
- In January, District staff responded to 5 media calls, 22 public calls, 18 emails, and participated in two events/presentation.

Grants and Incentive Programs

- In January, the District received 1,833 incentive program applications. 482 were for the Burn Cleaner Program and 309 were for the Heavy Duty Engine Program.
- In January, \$32,433,092.01 was placed under contract in the Heavy Duty Engine Program and \$9,454,904.45 in claims was paid.
- In January, \$3,051,291.07 was paid out in Light Duty and REMOVE II program claims.
- In January, \$450,436.96 was paid out in Burn Cleaner program claims.

	January 2023	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	Wood Stove Change Out – Decommission	6	3	\$2,250.00	3	\$2,250.00	\$0.00
	Wood Stove Change Out – New Device	476	597	\$2,223,150.00	597	\$2,223,150.00	\$450,436.96
Community Benefit	Residential New Device	14	20	\$3,766.09	20	\$3,766.09	\$0.00
Heavy Duty	Ag Burn Alternative Fleet Expansion	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$741,468.00
	Ag Burn Alternative Voucher	107	126	\$4,866,030.00	126	\$4,866,030.00	\$1,378,128.00
	Ag-UTV Vehicle Replacement	32	38	\$513,000.00	38	\$513,000.00	\$279,218.83

	Infrastructure Alternative Fuel	2	2	\$2,006,485.00	1	\$21,485.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Ag Vehicle Replacement	162	159	\$14,299,404.76	132	\$12,240,127.46	\$6,087,235.45
	Off-Road Low-Dust Harvester Replacement	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$598,854.17
	Off-Road Tractor Trade-Up	0	2	\$79,950.00	2	\$79,950.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road Used Ag Vehicle Replacement	1	2	\$357,061.20	4	\$577,015.33	\$0.00
	On-Road Emergency Vehicle Replacement	0	2	\$414,000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	On-Road New Purchase	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$370,000.00
	On-Road Truck Replacement	4	54	\$6,689,048.27	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	School Bus Vehicle Replacement	1	9	\$3,208,112.78	23	\$8,986,345.48	\$0.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial Replacement	36	45	\$94,762.00	45	\$94,762.00	\$0.00
	Residential New Purchase	20	14	\$675.00	14	\$675.00	\$2,892.79
	Residential Replacement	23	48	\$13,423.26	48	\$13,423.26	\$15,326.00
Light Duty	Charge Up EV Charger – Private	3	3	\$48,000.00	3	\$48,000.00	\$0.00
	Charge Up EV Charger – Public	7	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Drive Clean – EV Vehicle Rebate	783	577	\$1,693,000.00	577	\$1,693,000.00	\$1,807,000.00
	EFMP Replacement	0	156	\$1,416,000.00	156	\$1,416,000.00	\$444,349.96
	E-Mobility Trip Reduction	0	1	\$1,516.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TITU Admin/Events	8	11	\$212,018.45	11	\$212,018.45	\$86,516.45
	TITU Payroll	8	25	\$499,231.74	25	\$499,231.74	\$351,080.69
	TITU Repairs	120	125	\$592,017.06	125	\$592,017.06	\$362,343.97
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel New Vehicle	19	27	\$534,973.94	11	\$215,164.96	\$444,673.78
	Clean Air Centers – Portable Devices	1	1	\$3,560.67	1	\$3,560.67	\$0.00

VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement Shuttle Bus	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$320,000.00
	Replacement Transit Bus	0	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,600,000.00
Totals		1,833	2,047	\$39,771,436.22	1,962	\$34,300,972.50	\$15,339,525.05

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
994	755	577	2,327

Smoking Vehicles	4
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Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Mar. 16

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Apr. 4

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Apr. 27

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

Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast