

# News Release

For immediate release

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>>City, business and assignment  
editors<<



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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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## Critical diesel program exhausts funds for first round

*Air District program requests exceed available funds*

A new program that grants funds for replacing and retrofitting polluting diesel engines has proven so popular that funding requests were more than three times the available money.

California Proposition 1B, which grants funds for the Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program, provides \$40.5 million in the first year to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for projects that address the 95 million miles per day traveled through the air basin, mainly on Highway 99 and Interstate 5. Diesel engines are a significant source of the pollution that plagues the Valley.

The Air District offered up to \$50,000 for each truck replacements and up to \$5,000 for installing control devices on existing trucks. More than \$135 million in requests was received by the Air District. The application period ran from July to September.

“The good news is that we were very successful in our efforts to get the word out and identify cost-effective projects to reduce air pollution throughout the Valley. The bad news is that the Valley’s needs far outweigh available funding,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s air pollution control officer and executive director.

For the first round of funding, the District received 580 applications for 2,758 trucks, totaling more than \$135 million. The number of applications received by the Air District for this program totaled 41 percent of all non-port applications received for the program state-wide, even though the Valley was granted just 20 percent of available funds for the first year. Applications received by the Valley District exceeded applications received by any other agency in California, including the populous South Coast Air Basin (Los Angeles).

The District conducted extensive, targeted outreach for funds disbursement, including application assistance workshops that were held in August in each of the District’s three regions, a bilingual advertising campaign, detailed website information and Spanish-language outreach through a toll-free number.

The District is continuing to process all applications received by the deadline although funding will cover just one-third of requests. Officials are uncertain whether applications that are unfunded will need to be resubmitted in subsequent funding rounds.

“The program’s overwhelming success and the Valley’s air-quality challenges illustrate why it is critical for our legislators to keep the spotlight on the Valley’s fiscal need for support in cleaning up our air,” Sadredin said.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.