

For immediate release 10-7-15

Attn: Local news, business and assignment editors

Northern region – Modesto

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472

Central/Southern regions – Fresno

Heather Heinks (559) 230-5898

Spanish-language contact

Maricela Velasquez (559) 230-5849

Technology Advancement Project – Dairy feeding operation electrification

Milk Producers Council, Valley Air District and EPA host open house to demonstrate new technology

The Technology Advancement Program (TAP) is the Valley Air District's strategic approach to encouraging innovation and development of new emission reduction technologies. The TAP consists of an ongoing review of new technology concepts, interagency partnerships, funding for technology advancement programs, and collaborations to build and expand local capacity for research and development in the San Joaquin Valley. The goal of the TAP is to support technology development in critical areas which will assist the San Joaquin Valley in meeting stringent air quality goals.

"Despite major reductions in emissions, the Valley continues to face difficult challenges in meeting federal air-quality standards", stated Seyed Sadredin, the Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer of the Valley Air District. "It is virtually impossible for the Valley to attain the new standards for ozone and particulates without these significant advancements in low-emission technologies through TAP projects."

Through the Clean Air Technology Initiative, US EPA Region 9 provides annual funding to support the Valley District's Technology Advancement Program. The Initiative seeks to align available resources and research efforts to accelerate the demonstration and deployment of advanced clean air technologies in California's San Joaquin Valley and South Coast air basins, the only two extreme ozone nonattainment airsheds in the nation. Through this partnership, US EPA and the Valley Air District are able to implement a variety of innovative clean air technology demonstration projects.

"The San Joaquin Valley offers many opportunities for testing advanced clean air technologies", said Kerry Drake, Air Division Associate Director for US EPA's Pacific Southwest Region. "By continuing to work together to develop new technologies, such as these electrified dairy feed mixers, we can move toward our ultimate goal of bringing healthier air to Valley residents."

This technology advancement project, located at Verwey Farms, replaced higher polluting diesel powered equipment with clean electric powered equipment in the dairy feed mixing process. Typically trailers powered from a tractor power take off unit are used to mix quantities of feed comprised of varying forages and grain products. The electrified system uses stationary electric powered mixers with the mixed feed products delivered via new clean burning diesel trucks.

This project is replacing a total of four heavy-duty diesel tractors with electric feed mixing equipment and will result in annual estimated emission reductions as follows:

- Nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 22 tons annually,
- Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 2.2 tons annually,

- Hydrocarbons (volatile organic compounds-VOCs or Reactive Organic Gases-ROG) by 1 ton, and
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) by 648 tons.

The project will also conserve over 90,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually.

The total cost of the this project is \$1,145,782 with the Valley Air District providing \$300,000 through the Technology Advancement Program which is funded in part through EPA Region 9. Verwey Farms is incurring the remaining \$845,782.

Additionally, the US EPA West Coast Collaborative has just awarded the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District \$1 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grant funding to replace 75 agriculture tractors with Tier 4 or cleaner engines. Since 2008, the DERA grant program has provided funding for many emission reduction projects across the United States. The West Coast Collaborative States have received more than \$115 million in DERA funding, and leveraged over \$145 million from public and private partners. These projects have cleaned up over 7,900 engines, and reduced 400 tons/year of particulate matter, 6,800 tons/year of NO_x, and 400,000 tons/year CO₂. Reducing particulate matter emissions reduces black carbon, which influences climate by directly absorbing light, reducing the reflectivity (“albedo”) of snow and ice through deposition, and interacting with clouds.

To learn more about the West Coast Collaborative DERA projects, visit:

<http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org>

The event sponsors include the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Milk Producers Council, Duport TMR Equipment Company, Inc., and Supreme International.

For media outlets not in attendance at today’s event, B-roll footage and interviews are available for your use. You can use the following links to access our FTP site. The footage is dated 10-6-15 and located in the folder titled “Dairy Technology Project”.

For users using a browser:

<ftp://vadpublicdoc:public.education@ftp.valleyair.org/Private/OC/>

For users using an FTP application:

<ftp://ftp.valleyair.org/Private/OC/>

Username: vadpublicdoc

Password: public.education