

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - May 2011

Truckers turn out for heavy-duty diesel grants

The Air District is reviewing more than 2,800 applications received and preparing to distribute \$60 million in the latest round of heavy-duty diesel truck funding, which will replace polluting trucks with cleaner vehicles.

“The fact that we are inundated with requests illustrates how sorely this program is needed, and how critical additional funding is to meet that need,” said Samir Sheikh, the District’s director of Strategies and Incentives.

The most recent round of state Proposition 1B funding opened in March and was expanded to include Class 7 as well as Class 8 vehicles. Eligible truck owners could receive up to \$60,000 to upgrade their heavy-duty diesel trucks.

Diesel emissions are a significant factor in the Valley’s struggle to meet health-based, clean-air standards. The state’s two major goods-movement corridors – Highway 99 and Interstate 5 – bisect the air basin. Since 2008, more than \$100 million has been made available to the Air District for the program.

The District conducted workshops in each of its three regions during April and offered bilingual assistance in the application process.

“This grant program is critical to our progress toward cleaner air and continued improvement in the Valley’s health,” Sheikh said.

In addition to the Proposition 1B funding, the District currently has funding available for truck replacements under two first-come-first-served grant programs targeted at small- to medium-sized Valley fleets.

The heavy-duty diesel program is just one part of an extensive grants and incentives department at the District. For more information about the Air District or the many grant programs available, visit www.valleyair.org or call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

New, free online tool localizes real-time air quality

The Valley Air District has a new tool that gives you localized, real-time air quality data delivered right to your in-box!

The Real-Time Air Quality Advisory Network (RAAN) is a free, useful tool that provides the most up-to-date air-quality information possible, and alerts you to significant changes in the current air quality. When you subscribe to RAAN, updated, localized air-quality information will be delivered directly to you via email as it becomes available. This information enables you to modify planned activities that are affected by air quality, when necessary.

The Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) has been piloted at schools throughout the Valley, which use the program to make timely adjustments to their day-to-day outdoor activities. As air quality either improves or deteriorates, RAAN provides emails outlining the change in air quality and a web portal detailing the day’s air-quality trends. The flexibility of the RAAN program enhances a school’s ability to allow their students to enjoy outdoor sports and activities as much as possible while protecting student health when air quality is poor in their specific area.

The goal of the network is to give schools, administrators, teachers, students and parents current and accurate air quality information. The network also gives guidelines on limiting outdoor activities when air quality is poor.

Although RAAN was designed for schools, any member of the public is welcome to subscribe to this tool. For more information about RAAN, how to use it and how to subscribe, visit http://valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm.

Monitoring stations like this one in Manteca, collect data used to provide daily and real-time air quality information.



**Last chance to enter the
for reel
video contest.**



Tell us the change you’ve made to help clean the Valley’s air in a 30-second video. Video submissions must be received by the Valley Air District no later than 5pm, May 27, 2011. Entries must be on a DVD and delivered to SJVAPCD, Attn: Outreach and Communications, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726.