

VALLEY AIR NEWS

December 2018



Board approves new incentive programs

During the November meeting, the Governing Board approved three new incentive programs to benefit local businesses in agriculture and commercial landscaping. More information about these incentive programs is available on valleyair.org/grants.

Commercial Landscape Equipment

The zero-emission commercial landscape maintenance equipment incentive program aims to reduce air pollution from commercial landscape maintenance activities by encouraging the adoption of new, commercially-available, zero-emission technologies. Businesses, public agencies and other entities that engage in or provide commercial-scale landscape maintenance services are eligible to apply. Participants agree to render existing old equipment permanently inoperable, use the new electric equipment for a minimum of three years, and report to the Valley Air District on usage and other activities throughout the project. The maximum funding amount is 70% of the purchase price, with varying funding caps depending upon the equipment. Funding will be limited to \$25,000 annually per applicant.

Low-Dust Nut Harvesting Equipment

The low-dust nut harvesting pilot incentive program will promote the deployment and evaluation of low-dust technology on a broad scale. Growers and custom harvesters are eligible to apply for low-dust harvesting equipment that has shown to achieve at least 40% reduction in particulate matter in available peer-reviewed information and/or District-approved methodology. Participants will receive an incentive amount of 50% of the eligible equipment cost, must commit to use the new equipment for a minimum of five years or harvest seasons, and are required to report on equipment usage, harvest information and other relevant activities throughout the program. The program will be limited initially to one piece of new equipment per participant.

Ag Burning Alternatives

The alternatives to open burning of agricultural waste pilot incentive program supports efforts by the ag community to develop, demonstrate and evaluate the viability of new options for orchard removal. Only commercial agricultural operations are eligible to apply. Funding will be provided for chipping and on-farm reuse of the wood material, such as soil incorporation and mulch application. Incentive amounts will range from \$300-\$600 per acre of agricultural material removed, depending upon alternative practice utilized, up to a maximum of \$60,000 per recipient per year. The program includes pre- and post-project requirements by participants and inspections by District staff.



Community steering committees hold first meetings

Steering committees for the selected communities for the new AB 617 Community Air Protection Program have been established and held their first meetings in December.

In October, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced that the City of Shafter and the community of South Central Fresno, including Calwa and Malaga, were among a list of communities throughout the state being prioritized for additional air quality funding and investment. A list of members for each steering committee can be found at valleyair.org/community.

Residents, businesses and other members of the communities who were not selected but are interested in staying involved with the steering committees are encouraged to attend the meetings. Upcoming steering committee meeting info can be found at valleyair.org/community.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS, CONNECT WITH US ON:

