

VALLEY AIR NEWS

October 2018



Two Valley communities selected for investment under AB 617

Through implementation of the new AB 617 Community Air Protection Program, new resources have been committed to the Valley to reduce air pollution, improve quality of life, and help the region meet its clean air mandates.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) announced last month that the City of Shafter and South Central Fresno, including Calwa and Malaga, were among a list of communities throughout the state prioritized for investment of additional resources. The statewide effort includes the development of community air monitoring and community emissions reduction programs in the identified communities.

To better understand the concerns of the selected communities and develop effective clean air strategies, the Valley Air District is establishing a steering committee for each of those communities. The steering committees will help the District in developing community monitoring plans, identifying local mobile and stationary sources of pollution, evaluating emission reduction opportunities, and more.

AB 617 Kick-off meetings have been scheduled for 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2018, at Golden Oak Elementary School in Shafter, and 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2018, at Vang Pao Elementary School in Fresno.

Interested residents, businesses and other members of the communities can visit valleyair.org/community to apply, or they can attend the kick-off meetings to find out more.

Valley farmers to get funding for cleaner equipment

The Valley Air District recently received \$108 million from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as part of the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program to help those in agriculture reduce their emissions by providing incentives to replace old, polluting equipment with cleaner ones.

Besides old tractors, farmers can get incentive funding for agricultural pumps, trucks, electric agricultural utility terrain vehicles (UTV) and pull-behind, engine-driven agricultural equipment.

In addition, categories have been added for heavy-duty ag trucks and equipment unavailable with similar horsepower ratings. The zero-emission agricultural UTV project category was modified, removing pre- and post-inspections by staff and reducing the required towing capacity of the replacement UTV to 500 pounds.

The FARMER Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities like the San Joaquin Valley.

To apply for FARMER funding, visit valleyair.org/grants.

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