

VALLEY AIR NEWS

June 2022



Another AB 617 community completes its CERP!

After months of multiple meetings and many thought-provoking discussions, the Arvin/Lamont AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC) sent its Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) to the District's Governing Board for adoption today during its monthly meeting.

The CERP received unanimous approval from voting members of the CSC, which included residents, community advocates and business representatives.

The CERP, which includes 31 measures that aim to reduce air pollution impacts from sources of concern in the community, anticipates investing more than \$30 million in emission reduction incentives and a variety of other clean air projects in the community.

Today the District's Governing Board approved the CERP, and now the document will go to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for review and approval. Once the CERP is approved by CARB, the next phase of the AB 617 process will be the implementation of the various measures.

Stay alert for PM2.5 during the summertime

High levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) isn't typically a summertime issue, but it can be, especially when it comes to fireworks and wildfires.

Every July 4th holiday season, the Valley Air District air monitors show just how overwhelmed the Valley's air quality gets from fine particulate matter (PM2.5) due to fireworks. Air monitors often spike four to five times higher than the health-based standard for PM2.5, particularly during the evening hours of July 4th when personal fireworks are in use. For that reason, the District reminds residents that personal fireworks emit high levels of PM2.5, including soot, ash and toxic metals, which can cause serious health effects.

Instead of lighting personal fireworks, the District encourages residents to take advantage of professional fireworks shows in the community as a safer way to celebrate Independence Day.

In addition, a small spark, whether from fireworks, lightning or a match, can turn a tiny smothering flame into a thunderous 100-acre wildfire. After another relatively dry winter season in the Valley, this summer is ripe for wildfires.

To stay on top of any wildfires that might be impacting the Valley, residents can visit the District's Wildfire Prevention & Response website: valleyair.org/wildfires. The website also provides information on how people can protect themselves from wildfire smoke, links to various online air quality tools, resources for foothill and mountain communities and more.

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