

Actions by the Governing Board – September 21, 2023

Review and Provide comment on the 2022-23 Annual Report to the Community

The purpose of the Annual Report to the Community is to provide Valley residents with a detailed account of the District's operations in the preceding year. In contrast to the many detailed, highly scientific and technical reports that are regularly published by the District, this report outlines the District's goals, objectives, legal obligations, and actions in a more concise and easy to follow format for the general public. At the September Governing Board meeting, the Board provided comments and feedback on the 2022-23 report. The report details the current regulatory challenges faced by the District and the extensive growth in the District's emissions reduction incentive programs, provides an update on the journey to cleaner air, reviews the accomplishments of the past year and highlights key issues faced by Valley with regard to air quality. Once finalized, the report will be translated into Spanish and copies will be available online at www.valleyair.org and as printed hardcopies upon request.

Approve Project Plans for Implementation of Light Duty Passenger Vehicle Incentive Programs in AB 617 Communities

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved project plans related to vehicle repair and replacement incentive programs for the AB 617 communities of Shafter, South Central Fresno, Stockton and Arvin/Lamont. The vehicle repair program will provide residents within the AB 617 communities with up to \$850 in vehicle emissions repairs while the vehicle replacement component will provide up to \$20,000 for the purchase of a new battery electric vehicle or up to \$12,000 for the purchase of a used vehicle. These incentive program will help reduce emissions from high emitting passenger vehicles operating within these communities and provide residents with the opportunity to transition to newer, cleaner transportation options.

Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 8051 (Open Areas)

The Valley Air District's Governing Board adopted amendments to District Rule 8051 (Open Areas) to incorporate a contingency provision for the federal PM_{2.5} standards, as required by the Clean Air Act. This action is consistent with the District's *PM_{2.5} Contingency State Implementation Plan Revision*, as adopted by the District Governing Board in May 2023. The adopted contingency provision would lower the rural acreage applicability threshold within the rule, and require dust control practices for these affected properties, upon EPA approval of the amendments as satisfying contingency requirements for PM_{2.5}, and upon final determination by EPA that the Valley failed to meet one of the contingency triggers as outlined in the Clean Air Act. Additionally, the District incorporated considerations within the Rule for fire prevention activities on rural parcels between 1 to 3 acres.

August District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In August, the Valley Air District encouraged individuals using wood-burning fireplaces or older wood/pellet stoves to consider upgrading their home heating systems now, and to take advantage of its Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out Program. With the program's improved incentives, those transitioning to an electric heat pump can not only enhance their home heating but also cool their homes during the hot summer months. This Change-Out program offers residents up to \$5,000 to upgrade their open-hearth fireplace or wood/pellet stove to a cleaner device, such as an electric heat pump, natural gas insert, or in specific areas, a

certified wood-burning device. For more information about the Change-Out program, please visit valleyair.org/change-out.

- As students head back to school, the rise in vehicle traffic due to parental drop-offs and pickups can lead to a temporary spike in ground-level ozone in the Valley. Decreasing vehicle idling at schools is essential to curbing air pollution and minimizing students' exposure to vehicle emissions. The District promoted "Turn the Key and be Idle Free" campaign to reinforce this message.
- In August, District staff responded to 11 media calls, 37 public calls, 26 emails, and participated in twenty events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

Key	August 2023	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	128	\$435,750.00	\$971,411.65
CAP & Trade	Demonstration	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Benefit	Residential	5,542	\$1,082,186.34	\$699,452.68
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	109	\$3,677,810.00	\$3,696,760.00
	Ag Engine	0	\$0.00	\$188,344.17
	Ag-UTV	20	\$270,000.00	\$558,997.86
	Infrastructure	2	\$3,834,265.00	\$1,456,420.00
	Off-Road	102	\$11,675,346.50	\$19,065,473.43
	School Bus	1	\$400,000.00	\$0.00
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	78	\$205,200.00	\$59,174.79
	Residential	652	\$92,147.49	\$60,106.04
Light Duty	Charge Up	7	\$233,000.00	\$304,223.72
	Drive Clean	881	\$2,608,000.00	\$2,407,000.00
	EFMP	67	\$577,000.00	\$1,415,000.00
	TITU	214	\$1,221,205.70	\$1,266,178.45
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	12	\$240,000.00	\$218,452.07
	Clean Air Centers	7	\$99,768.58	\$0.00
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement	16	\$5,111,999.97	\$0.00
	Totals	7,840	\$31,763,679.58	\$32,366,994.86

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
779	596	520	1,895

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Oct. 19

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Dec. 5

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Jan. 25

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.

Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast