

Actions by the Governing Board – Jan 18, 2024

Receive Update on District's Agricultural Open Burning Phase-Out Strategy and Approve Enhancements to Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program Including Allocation of Additional Funding

The Valley Air District Governing Board received an update on the District's agricultural open burning phase-out strategy and took action to approve the allocation of an additional \$10,000,000 in program funding for the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program, along with several program enhancements. In 2021, your Board took action to establish updated requirements for the near-complete phase-out of remaining agricultural open burning in the Valley by January 1, 2025. The District is now in the process of implementing and enforcing the final phase of the updated phase-out strategy. Through the initial implementation of the final phase-out strategy, the amount of agricultural material being open burned in the Valley has continued to decrease. Continuing this decreasing trend, the total amount of material burned in 2023 was significantly less than the 2022 total, again setting a new record low for the Valley. To support the Valley's ongoing phase-out of agricultural open burning, in 2018, your Board authorized the creation of the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. This program has been supported by a combination of local District funding and a CARB grant of \$178,000,000. As funding for this program is nearly exhausted, your Board approved an additional \$10,000,000 in local District funding to continue supporting this program until the availability of additional state funding in April, 2024. Additionally, your Board instituted participation caps to further extend the reach of available program funding to support the final phases of the agricultural burning phase-out strategy.

Approve the District's 2024 Legislative Platform

The Governing Board approved the District's 2024 Legislative Platform that establishes the District's 2024 legislative priorities. Following the approval of the platform, Staff will distribute the platform to the Valley state and federal delegations and will advocate for the District's priorities with appropriate state/federal policymakers. A copy of the District's 2024 Legislative Platform can be found on the District's website at: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/media/t51jowr3/2024-legislative-platform.pdf>

December District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In December, the Valley Air District continued to promote the Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Program to limit wood smoke in neighborhoods. Reminding Valley residents that before they can light up a wood-burning fireplace inside their home or fire pit in their backyard, they first need to check with the Valley Air District to see what the daily residential burn status is for their county. The residential wood-burning status can be found at valleyair.org/burnstatus, on the Valley Air app or by calling 1-800-SMOG-INFO (1-800-766-4463). The District also reminded residents that burning trash is always illegal. Residences with no other source of heat or no access to piped-in natural gas (even if one uses propane) are exempt from these restrictions. Cooking fires on cooking devices are also exempt. Outdoor (non-cooking) wood-burning devices at all residences are still subject to the daily restrictions, regardless of exemption status.
- The District's Governing Board honored 14 Valley student artists from the San Joaquin Valley were recognized during the December Governing Board meeting for their artwork in the District's Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar. The winning art entries featured in the bilingual 2024 Healthy air Living Kids' Calendar illustrate clean-air messages. The annual calendar is designed to educate and inspire the public to reduce air pollution in the Valley. The free calendars are distributed Valley wide to schools, organizations and individuals upon request,

while supplies last. To request calendars, visit valleyair.org/kidscalendar, call (559) 230-6000 or stop by a District office.

- In December, District staff responded to 7 media calls, 22 public calls, 24 emails, and participated in ten events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	December 2023	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB617	Vegetative Barriers	1	\$196,091.00	\$0.00
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	401	\$1,527,650.00	\$526,487.00
CAP & Trade	Demonstration	0	\$0.00	\$14,804.62
Community Benefit	Residential	238	\$46,474.26	\$46,474.14
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	107	\$4,526,768.00	\$1,945,500.00
	Ag Engine	8	\$491,059.58	\$0.00
	Ag-UTV	60	\$810,000.00	\$1,314,200.18
	Dairy Feed Mixer	0	\$0.00	\$210,707.42
	Infrastructure	0	\$0.00	\$652,265.00
	Off-Road	126	\$13,062,578.17	\$10,854,872.21
	On-Road	4	\$440,316.50	\$768,651.46
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	337	\$563,300.00	\$67,110.90
	Residential	127	\$12,951.83	\$11,314.57
Light Duty	Charge Up	0	\$0.00	\$85,692.00
	Drive Clean	342	\$1,007,000.00	\$2,473,000.00
	EFMP	141	\$1,598,000.00	\$823,500.00
	TITU	104	\$525,107.43	\$521,732.41
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	39	\$702,498.32	\$166,518.90
	Clean Air Centers	0	\$0.00	\$226,947.17
Special Projects	Raisin Tray Rebate	10	\$11,376.71	\$9,957.69
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement	17	\$6,799,800.28	\$3,980,748.40
	Totals	2,062	\$32,320,972.08	\$24,700,484.07

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
898	675	570	2,143

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Feb. 15

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Mar. 5

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

5:30 PM, Feb. 22

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

Details: www.valleyair.org

**Webcast*