

VALLEY AIR NEWS

November 2023



District awarded EPA Environmental Justice Grant

The Valley Air District is excited to receive an Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G) Grant to expand its outreach to more underserved, disadvantaged Valley communities by collaborating with several community-based organizations.

The \$1,000,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be used to build outreach and community engagement capacity, in partnership with grassroots organizations, and work with these organizations to provide free residential air purifier devices to 3,700 residents throughout the Valley.

The District is teaming up with four community-based organizations, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Binational of Central California, Fresno Street Saints and Centro la Familia, to work directly in their communities to teach residents about the District's clean air programs and how to protect themselves from poor air quality.

These committed community partners will receive subawards to support their work and help build their capacity, making them the District's first Clean Air Program Ambassador (CAPA) organizations.

The District expects to launch the joint effort with collaborating community-based organizations in early 2024 and aims to begin air purifier distribution in the spring of 2024.

Proclamation applauds Valley's agricultural emission reduction efforts

Today, representatives from the Valley Air District, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (EPA) signed a proclamation in Modesto lauding the successful efforts to reduce agricultural-related air quality emissions in the San Joaquin Valley.

While the Valley has some of the most challenging fine particulate matter and ozone air quality issues in the nation, the District has a long history of collaboration with Valley agricultural stakeholders, partner environmental agencies, state and federal legislators, and the California Governor. This collaboration has led to the accelerated turnover of older agricultural equipment to lower-emitting equipment through significant funding under the federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), the Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) funding programs, and the state Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program.

Investment by public (District, CARB, NRCS and EPA) and private sectors in agricultural equipment in the San Joaquin Valley since 2015 has equated to over \$1.6 billion, with farmers and others in the agricultural industry contributing more than half.

Examples of cleaner agricultural equipment were on display during the event.

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