

Actions by the Governing Board – December 21, 2023

Recognition of the 2024 Kids Calendar Winners

The Valley Air District Governing Board recognized fourteen students from around the San Joaquin Valley whose artwork is featured in the Valley Air District's 2024 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar. The District's annual calendar is a bilingual, full-color wall calendar, featuring clean-air messages and drawings, and is designed to educate and inspire the public to live a Healthy Air Life and reduce air pollution in the Valley. The calendars are free, and distributed to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches, civic organizations, non-profits, and individuals upon request, while supplies last. To request calendars for yourself, your classroom, school or other organization, email public.education@valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000. Calendars can also be picked up at any District office: in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., in Modesto, at 4800 Enterprise Way, and in Bakersfield, at 34936 Flyover Court.

S.T.A.R. Employee of the Year Awards

The District has developed and implemented STAR (Service, Teamwork, Attitude, and Respect), a District-wide work culture program aimed at creating an atmosphere in which providing exceptional service, demonstrating effective teamwork, maintaining a positive attitude, and showing respect to others are an intrinsic part of each employee's job. The District promotes STAR principles through a variety of efforts designed to educate, communicate with, and acknowledge the contribution of staff members. As part of the District's efforts to reinforce STAR performance and continually enhance our STAR work culture, STAR employees of the year were formally acknowledged and recognized for their outstanding performance and achievement.

Receive the Government Finance Officers' Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Once again, Government Financial Officers Association has awarded the District the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting," its highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, for the latest Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Fiscal Year 2021-22). Receiving this award represents a significant recognition by an expert independent authority of District's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental reporting and transparency to the public, and excellence in exercising fiduciary responsibilities.

Accept and Appropriate \$59 Million in State Funding Agricultural Measures for Emission reduction (Farmer) Program Funding for the Replacement of Agricultural Equipment

The Valley Air District Governing Board took action to accept and appropriate \$59,400,000 in state funding for the Funding Agricultural Measures for Emission Reduction (FARMER) Program for the District's Tractor Replacement Program. The FARMER Program builds upon more than 25 years of close collaboration and innovation between the Valley agricultural community, the District and CARB to reduce emissions from the agricultural sources, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. During that time, Valley agriculture, in partnership with the District, CARB, USDA-NRCS, and U.S. EPA, has invested more than \$1.8 billion in public and private funding towards replacing old, higher-polluting equipment and implementing other measures to reduce emissions associated with Valley agricultural operations. The District has been allocated \$543,371,705 in FARMER Program funding during the first five funding cycles. During those first five funding cycles, the District has been able to fund the replacement of more than 8,817 pieces of equipment with new, cleaner equipment.

Update on AB 617 Implementation and Approve New Incentive Programs Benefitting Valley Communities

The Governing Board received an update on the progress of AB 617 implementation and Community Air Protection (CAP) funding progress in the Valley, which included an Annual Report on Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) implementation for each of the four communities with adopted CERPs. The update described the District's ongoing monthly meetings with the four Valley Community Steering Committees (CSCs), provided an overview of progress on CERP measures and community air monitoring network deployment, and gave updates on robust community engagement effort. The Annual Reports provided detailed updates on CERP implementation in the first year communities of South Central Fresno and Shafter, the second year community of Stockton, and the third year community of Arvin/Lamont. With regards to CAP funding, which is to be used in disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout the Valley in addition to the selected AB 617 communities, the Board accepted a new round of funding totaling \$64,316,475 to fund voluntary emission and exposure reduction projects. To support these efforts, the Board allocated up to \$20,000,000 for the replacement of old, high-polluting school buses with zero-emission technology through the District's Zero Emission School Bus Replacement Program, and up to \$10,000,000 to construct necessary heavy-duty electric charging and fueling infrastructure to support the deployment of zero and near-zero emission heavy-duty vehicles and equipment through the District's Heavy-Duty Vehicle Fueling/Charging Infrastructure program.

Adopt Proposed Amendments to District Rule 4402 (Crude Oil Production Sumps)

The Valley Air District's Governing Board adopted amendments to District Rule 4402 (Crude Oil Production Sumps) to include a more stringent VOC exemption threshold for sumps and ponds storing produced water. Additionally, the proposed rule amendments include several clarifications to existing rule language. The proposed amendments address Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) requirements as required under the California CAA and state Assembly Bill 617, and to satisfy the commitment in the District's 2022 Ozone Plan, to support expeditious attainment of the health-based federal ozone air quality standards.

November District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In November, the Valley Air District received an Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program Grant to expand its outreach to more underserved, disadvantaged Valley communities by collaborating with several community-based organizations. The \$1 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency 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 nearly 4 thousand residents throughout the Valley.
- The District commemorated the endorsement of the proclamation by the Valley Air District, the California Air Resources Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, applauding the successful initiatives to mitigate air quality emissions associated with agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley. Despite facing some of the most challenging fine particulate matter and ozone air quality issues nationally, the District has a longstanding history of collaboration with agricultural stakeholders in the Valley, partner environmental agencies, state and federal legislators, and the California Governor. This collaborative effort has resulted in the expedited replacement of older agricultural equipment with lower-emitting alternatives, thanks to substantial funding from the federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), the Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) funding programs, and the state's Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program. The combined investment by both public entities (District,

CARB, NRCS, and EPA) and private sectors in agricultural equipment in the San Joaquin Valley since 2015 has surpassed \$1.6 billion, with farmers and others in the agricultural industry contributing more than half of this amount.

- In November, District staff responded to 10 media calls, 40 public calls, 21 emails, and participated in ten events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	November 2023	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
Bicycle Infrastructure	Bike Path Class I, II, or III	0	\$0.00	\$54,865.99
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	434	\$1,589,800.00	\$225,600.00
Community Benefit	Residential	1	\$195.27	\$327,075.19
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	216	\$9,564,132.28	\$3,557,181.00
	Ag Engine	2	\$133,610.29	\$31,320.00
	Ag-UTV	109	\$1,471,500.00	\$819,701.25
	Dairy Feed Mixer	1	\$1,629,752.48	\$911,368.79
	Infrastructure	2	\$1,636,509.00	\$0.00
	Off-Road	111	\$12,968,151.10	\$26,564,914.76
	On-Road	5	\$900,113.42	\$3,935,618.91
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	95	\$92,600.00	\$36,103.22
	Residential	142	\$16,481.14	\$8,253.68
Light Duty	Charge Up	8	\$247,000.00	\$0.00
	Drive Clean	1,047	\$3,099,000.00	\$1,694,000.00
	EFMP	145	\$1,644,500.00	\$474,500.00
	TITU	170	\$953,909.41	\$888,583.56
Public Benefit	Alternative Fuel	30	\$582,217.00	\$434,166.43
	Clean Air Centers	0	\$0.00	\$39,500.43
VW NOx Mitigation	Replacement	3	\$784,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	2,522	\$37,323,679.39	\$40,004,669.01

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
874	1,223	999	3,096

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

9:00 AM, Jan. 18

Citizens Advisory Committee*

10:00 AM, Feb. 6

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