

## Actions by the Governing Board – Mar. 21, 2024

### Accept and Appropriate Up to \$2 Million in Supplemental Environmental Project Funding to Support Valley-Wide Clean Air Rooms Residential Air Filtration Incentive Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted up to \$2,000,000 in California Air Resources Board (CARB) Supplemental Environmental Project funding to go towards the Valley-wide Clean Air Rooms incentive program. The program provides residential air filtration units to low-income and disadvantaged community households throughout the San Joaquin Valley. These funds will allow the District to continue to provide a new, CARB-certified high-efficiency residential air filtration unit and one additional filter element to each eligible applicant.

### Allocate Up to \$600 Thousand in Additional Funding for the District's Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program

The Valley Air District Governing Board approved up to \$600,000 in additional funding for the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program. In November 2023, the Governing Board received a detailed presentation regarding the significant health and public safety impacts associated with large-scale fireworks displays and authorized the creation of the Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program, with an initial Valley-wide allocation of \$250,000. During the discussion in November, District staff committed to return to your Board at the conclusion of the solicitation for projects to determine if additional funding would be necessary to adequately support this pilot program. During the initial solicitation in February 2023, the District received applications for 25 drone light shows for \$845,500 in funding for various celebratory events throughout the Valley. Based on Board direction and the interest in the program, the Governing Board approved additional funding to accommodate the interest in this pilot program.

### Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 4905 (Natural Gas-Fired, Fantype Central; Furnaces)

District Rule 4905 limits NOx emissions from natural gas-fired, fan-type central furnaces with a rated heat input capacity of less than 175,000 Btu/hr and a rated cooling capacity of less than 65,000 Btu/hr for combination heating and cooling units. Amendments to the rule in 2015 included lowering the NOx emission limit from 40 ng/J to 14 ng/J, and an associated emissions fee period for each unit type allowing manufacturers time to develop new compliant furnaces. Manufacturers have been successful in developing compliant units for all unit types except manufactured home furnaces, for which the emissions fee period expired September 30, 2022. In response to manufacturers' concerns regarding the lack of compliant units available, the Valley Air District Governing Board adopted amendments to District Rule 4905 extending the emissions fee period for manufactured home furnaces to September 30, 2025, which allows an additional period of time for the development of compliant technologies, while ensuring the availability of furnaces to Valley residents and to ensure regulatory consistency in California. The District also amended the rule to include an enhancement to the reporting and payment requirements that clarifies when reports and payments are due for units that are sold during the six-month sell-through period following the emissions fee end date.

## February District Activities

### Outreach and Communications

- In February, the Valley Air District and CAL FIRE simplified the Hazard Reduction Burn permit process to prioritize public health and fire safety. With reduced snowpack and warmer temperatures leading to longer, more intense dry seasons, the risk of severe wildfires is heightened. Residents are urged to prepare for wildfire season. Through a Memorandum of

Understanding, the District and CAL FIRE have established an "online one-stop shop" for obtaining burn permits in the Valley, eliminating the need for residents to visit their local fire station in person. This agreement enhances communication and access to daily Hazard Reduction Burn status, as well as notifications of burning suspensions in specific locations within the Valley Air District's SRAs. The MOU aims to streamline the permitting process, facilitating controlled burning to reduce hazardous fuels and prevent destructive wildfires.

- The District spent a couple of days in February participating in the World Ag Expo in Tulare. This renowned annual outdoor agricultural exhibition boasts more than 1,200 exhibitors and attracts over 100,000 attendees annually. The Expo provided an invaluable opportunity for District personnel to interact with agricultural manufacturers and dealers, while also educating local farmers about numerous available grants.
- In February, District staff responded to 6 media calls, 20 public calls, 28 emails, and participated in sixteen events/presentations.

## Grants and Incentive Programs

	February 2024	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
<b>AB617</b>	Vegetative Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$7,072.62
<b>Burn Cleaner</b>	Wood Stove Change Out	263	\$983,100.00	\$931,920.03
<b>CAP &amp; Trade</b>	Demonstration	0	\$0.00	\$282,423.82
<b>Community Benefit</b>	Residential	608	\$118,724.16	\$97,634.40
<b>Heavy-Duty</b>	Ag Burn Alternative	144	\$6,877,650.00	\$3,551,689.75
	Ag Engine	2	\$118,159.48	\$395,192.69
	Ag-UTV	37	\$499,500.00	\$2,337,769.22
	Dairy Feed Mixer	0	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
	Off-Road	141	\$12,950,914.70	\$17,535,399.62
	On-Road	0	\$0.00	\$400,000.00
	Yard Truck	0	\$0.00	\$310,161.42
<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	Commercial	58	\$100,000.00	\$45,547.15
	Residential	131	\$10,591.71	\$7,775.65
<b>Light Duty</b>	Charge Up	8	\$271,000.00	\$233,151.42
	Drive Clean	6	\$16,000.00	\$3,290,000.00
	EFMP	205	\$2,374,500.00	\$1,702,500.00
	TITU	188	\$1,075,685.26	\$1,235,868.49
<b>Public Benefit</b>	Alternative Fuel	19	\$355,573.84	\$255,484.11

	Clean Air Centers	0	\$0.00	\$24,129.44
<b>Special Projects</b>	Raisin Tray Rebate	6	\$4,188.25	\$0.00
<b>VW NOx Mitigation</b>	Replacement	11	\$3,838,410.55	\$1,600,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>\$29,593,997.95</b>	<b>\$34,393,719.83</b>

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
993	894	757	2,644

## Upcoming Meetings

**Governing Board\***

9:00 AM, Apr. 25

**Citizens Advisory Committee\***

10:00 AM, May 7

**Environmental Justice Advisory Group**

5:30 PM, Apr. 25

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

Details: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

\*Webcast