

VALLEY AIR NEWS

February 2023



Successful Fireplace Change-Out Show & Tell event leads to two more events

Following the positive turn out and feedback from residents after the Valley Air District's first Fireplace Change-Out Show & Tell event in Shafter last month, the District will be hosting two more events in AB 617 communities.

The next Change-Out Show & Tell events will be:

- 4:30-7 p.m. February 23 at Yasoo Yani Restaurant, 326 E. Main St., Stockton
- 4:30-7 p.m. March 2 at Malaga Community Rec Center, 3582 S. Winery Ave., Fresno

During the Shafter event, several dozen attendees from Shafter, Bakersfield and Wasco visited tables where hearth retailers from Bakersfield were waiting to answer fireplace questions, show examples of gas inserts and discuss the various cleaner options to change-out wood- or pellet-burning devices to heat a home.

District staff were also on hand to help residents who were ready to start their Fireplace & Woodstove Change-Out application and answer questions about the program. Approved applicants will receive a voucher worth up to \$5,000 to be used toward a new gas or electric residential heating device. For more info, visit valleyair.org/change-out or call 559-230-5800.

Residential Air Filtration Program approved by Governing Board

The Valley Air District's Governing Board heard and approved the reallocation of funds to a proposed Residential Air Filtration Program for several AB 617 communities during February's meeting.

The program will provide free, off-the-shelf residential air filtration devices to eligible residents living within the boundaries of the South Central Fresno, Shafter and Stockton AB 617 communities. Approved applicants, one per household, will receive one device and one replacement filter.

The air filtration program will be similar to the District's Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program that provided more than 1,200 devices to vulnerable residents throughout the Valley last year. The District is planning to launch another Valley-wide Clean Air Rooms program by the end of the year.

The three AB 617 Community Steering Committees supported funding \$1 million for an estimated 5,000 devices as part of each of its Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP).

The next step, before it can officially launch, is getting the air filtration program's project plan approved by the Californian Air Resources Board. Approval is expected in the next few weeks.

Residents who live in these communities who are interested in receiving information about this program can visit the [AB 617 community boundary page](#) to determine their eligibility. Additionally, they can receive program updates by [signing up](#) for the AB 617: Residential Air Filtration Program email notification list or by calling or emailing District staff at 559-230-5800 or grants@valleyair.org.

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