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Samir Sheikh
Executive Director
Air Pollution Control Officer

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DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board



FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO
Project Coordinator: Todd DeYoung

RE: **ITEM NUMBER 7: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE
\$37,500 IN FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT PROGRAM FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN
BURNING**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept and appropriate \$37,500 from the California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Project Program to fund alternatives to agricultural open burning.
2. Authorize the Board Chair, with Executive Director/APCO recommendation, to enter into any agreements with CARB and other entities as necessary to accept and administer this funding.
3. Approve the attached Budget Resolution to amend the 2026-27 District Budget to appropriate \$37,500 in new revenue.

BACKGROUND:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program allows community-based projects to be funded from a portion of the penalties received during settlement of CARB enforcement actions. The SEP Program aims to improve public health, increase compliance, and reduce the pollution burden of communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental harm. CARB's SEP policy allows a SEP to be used in lieu of a portion of a penalty payment to mitigate the effects of a particular violation. The SEP program is a voluntary program for violators who may choose to fund one or more SEPs with up to 50%

of their penalty fees during the enforcement case settlement process. Availability of funding is not guaranteed and the amount of funding available from each settlement may vary. CARB accepts project proposals year-round.

Towards that end, the District submitted an application to the CARB SEP Program on September 4, 2025. This application proposed up to \$5,000,000 in SEP funding to fund alternatives to agricultural open burning through the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. On August 13, 2026, CARB notified the District that our application was selected for partial funding in the amount of \$37,500. Up to 6.25% of this award is available to the District to administer these SEP funds. The purpose of today's item is to accept and appropriate this funding from the CARB SEP Program and administer this funding through the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program.

DISCUSSION:

This SEP project will provide financial incentives to Valley growers to utilize an alternative practice for the disposition of agricultural material from orchard/vineyard removals as an alternative to open burning through the District's Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. This program was developed and approved by your Board in 2018 to support the Valley's ongoing phase-out of agricultural open burning. Eligibility is limited to growers within the District boundaries. This well-subscribed program provides financial incentives to agricultural operations to chip, shred, or mulch agricultural material from orchard and vineyard removals as an alternative to open burning. This program plays a critical role in assisting to defray the significant new costs associated with deploying alternatives to open burning, such as chipping and soil incorporation.

With the partial funding of \$37,500, the District estimates that this will result in the processing of approximately 78 acres of material through the program and the reduction of approximately 20.5 tons of NOx, ROG, and PM2.5 emissions. Recognizing the variety of agricultural operations in the Valley, the program allows growers to select from several alternative practices, such as soil incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling), on-site land application on agricultural land, off-site beneficial re-use (mulch, composting, land application near roadways for dust suppression, and other District-approved beneficial re-use of the chipped material).

The District has been successfully and efficiently implementing this program since 2018 with a variety of state and local funding sources. To date, the District has executed a total of more than \$250 million in grants under this program, matched with more than \$280 million in match funding from Valley growers for a total investment of more than \$530 million. This investment has funded the implementation of cleaner practices for the disposal of approximately 336,000 acres of orchard and vineyard removals, equating to nearly 8.9 million tons of agricultural material diverted from open burning.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the attached Budget Resolution will increase the District's 2026-27 Budget revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$37,500. The grant will provide up to 6.25% in administrative funds necessary to successfully manage the project.

Attachment: Budget Resolution (4 pages)

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
Meeting of the Governing Board
September 10, 2026

**ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$37,500 IN FUNDING FROM THE
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING**

Attachment:

Budget Resolution
(4 pages)

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**BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

IN THE MATTER OF INCREASING THE
2026/27 DISTRICT BUDGET TO ACCEPT
AND APPROPRIATE \$37,500 IN
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROJECT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09-07

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) is a duly constituted unified district, as provided in California Health and Safety Code sections 40150 to 40161, and;

WHEREAS, the District is authorized by California Health and Safety Code section 40702 to make and enforce all necessary and proper orders, rules and regulations to accomplish the purpose of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code, and;

WHEREAS, the District submitted an application to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program to fund alternatives to agricultural open burning through the District's Agricultural Burn Alternatives Grant Program, and;

WHEREAS, this well-subscribed program provides financial incentives to agricultural operations to chip, shred, or mulch agricultural material from orchard and vineyard removals as an alternative to open burning. This program plays a critical role in assisting to defray the significant new costs associated with deploying alternatives to open burning, such as chipping and soil incorporation, and;

WHEREAS, CARB notified the District that the application was selected for partial funding in the amount of \$37,500. The District estimates that this will result in the processing of approximately 78 acres of material through the program and the reduction of approximately 20.5 tons of NOx, ROG, and PM2.5 emissions, and;

WHEREAS, the District is authorized to participate in, and agrees to comply with the requirements of the CARB funded SEP Program guidelines, and;

1 **WHEREAS**, the District has agreed to administer this funding from the CARB SEP
2 Program through the District's Agricultural Burn Alternatives Grant Program in the amount
3 of \$37,500, and;

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT** the District's Director of Finance and
5 Administrative Services is authorized to increase the 2026/27 District Budget as follows:

6 **APPROPRIATIONS:**

7 **NON-OPERATING – INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

8 ARB – SEP ALTERNATIVES TO AG BURNING PROGRAM \$ 35,156
9 588-8630-350-100

10 TOTAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS \$ 35,156

11 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$ 35,156

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Director of Finance and Administrative
13 Services is ordered to increase the following:

14 **DISTRICT RESERVES:**

15 Fund Balance Reserve \$ 2,344
16 100-3090-000-100

17 TOTAL RESERVES INCREASED \$ 2,344

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the estimated revenues for the 2026/27
19 District Budget be adjusted as follows:

20 **ESTIMATED REVENUES**

21 **NON-OPERATING REVENUE**

22 ARB – SEP ALTERNATIVES TO AG BURNING PROGRAM \$ 35,156
23 588-4610-350-100

24 TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUE \$ 35,156

25 **OPERATING REVENUE**

26 Admin Fees – ARB – SEP ALTERNATIVES TO AG BURNING \$ 2,344
27 588-4495-160-100

28 TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$ 2,344

 TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES \$ 37,500

OPERATING – TRANSFERS IN	
GENERAL FUND ADMIN EARNED	\$ 2,344
100-4720-000-100	
NON-OPERATING – TRANSFERS OUT	
PROGRAM ADMIN COSTS	\$ 2,344
588-9020-160-100	

By _____
Mario Orosco
Director of Finance and Administrative Services

THE FOREGOING was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Governing Board of the SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT this 10th day of September, 2026, to wit:

ABSENT:

Amy Shuklian, Chair
Governing Board

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ATTEST:

Deputy Clerk to the Governing Board

By _____

Katrina Rojas