

To: San Joaquin Valley School Districts

Re: Transportation Service Plan - Air District Consultation Under AB 181

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for contacting the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) regarding Assembly Bill 181 (AB 181) for your Transportation Service Plan (Plan). AB 181, now codified in California Education Code §39800.1, requires school districts to develop transportation service plans in consultation with the local air pollution control districts. Your receipt and consideration of the information provided in this letter satisfy the consultation requirements. The District offers the following comments and information:

Coordination Efforts

The District appreciates the coordination efforts in preparation of a Plan that results in policies and commitments to reduce air quality impacts in the Valley. Consistent with this cooperative effort, the District recommends the Plan include clean air measures that will further improve air quality for the residents of the Valley. The Plan should include, as feasible, mobile source-related clean-air measures since motor vehicle emissions are the largest source of air pollution in the Valley, making it more difficult to attain state and federal ambient air quality standards. To assist with these goals, the District offers numerous grants and incentive funding-based programs.

District Grant Programs and Recommended Clean Air Measures

School Bus Replacement

This program provides funding for the replacement of existing yellow school buses that transport public school children to and from school with zero-emission school buses in disadvantaged or low-income communities within the District boundaries. The goal of this program is to reduce emissions from school buses that operate within the Valley. Eligible applicants are public school district's Joint Power Authorities (JPA), and privately owned yellow school buses that are contracted with a public school to transport public school children. Additional information may be found at:

<https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/zero-emission-school-bus-replacement-incentive-program/>.

Samir Sheikh

Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: (559) 230-6000 FAX: (559) 230-6061

Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
Tel: (661) 392-5500 FAX: (661) 392-5585

Zero-Emission School Bus Infrastructure

Program provides funding for the purchase and installation of charging equipment and renewable power generation systems to power covered sources. Eligible applicants are public school districts, JPAs, and privately owned yellow school buses that are contracted with a public school to transport public school children. Additional information may be found at: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/zero-emission-school-bus-infrastructure-program/>.

Charge Up! Electric Vehicle Charger Incentive Program

Program funding for the purchase and installation of electric vehicle supply equipment, which supports non-residential applicants to deploy plug-in vehicles throughout the Valley. The program assists in funding the purchase and installation of new level 2 and level 3 chargers. Eligible applicants for the program are private entities or public agencies such as school districts intending to install electric vehicle chargers. Public agencies must be located within the District boundaries. Additional information may be found at: www.valleyair.org/chargeup.

Public Benefits

Program provides funding for the purchase of new alternative fuel passenger vehicles such as zero-emission electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles or equipment. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.valleyair.org/grants/publicbenefit.htm>.

Clean Green Yard Machines

Commercial lawn and garden equipment have the potential to result in an increase of NOx and PM2.5 emissions. As such, this Program provides funding, per calendar year for the replacement of their gas or diesel powered landscape maintenance equipment with new electric options. Public agencies and private entities such as school districts, businesses, and non-profit organizations that have commercial-scale, in-house landscape maintenance operations are eligible to apply. The program provides incentives for the purchase of a variety of zero-emission landscape equipment such as edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, blowers, pole saws, mowers (walk-behind and ride-on), and additional batteries and chargers. . Additional information may be found at: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/clean-green-yard-machines-commercial/>.

Clean Air Centers Pilot Program

Program provides funding for the cost of portable air cleaners and replacement filters in order to create a network of publicly accessible facilities with high-efficiency air filtration systems for valley residents who may not otherwise have access to clean air during wildfire events. Eligible participants include, but are not limited to, public entities such as schools and libraries and private entities such as community centers, senior centers and sport centers. Additional information can be found at: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/ab-836-clean-air-centers-pilot-program/>.

Reduce Idling of Heavy-Duty Vehicles

The goal of this strategy is to limit the potential for localized PM2.5 and toxic air contaminant impacts associated with the idling of heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. school buses). The diesel exhaust from idling has the potential to cause significant adverse health impacts. As such, the District recommends the Plan consider a measure for compliance of the state anti-idling regulation (13 CCR § 2485 and 13 CCR § 2480) and discuss the importance of limiting the amount of idling, especially nearby and within the boundaries of a school.

Heavy Duty Vehicle Routing

The District recommends the Plan consider evaluating heavy-duty vehicle (e.g. school buses) routing patterns, with the goal of this strategy limiting exposure of residential communities to diesel exhaust emissions. This evaluation would consider the current heavy-duty vehicle routes, the destination of each trip, traffic volume correlation with the time of day or day of the week, and overall vehicle miles traveled. The heavy-duty vehicle routing evaluation would also identify alternative heavy-duty vehicle routes and their impacts on vehicle miles traveled and air quality.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact District staff by phone at (559) 230-6000 or at healthyairlivingschools@valleyair.org.