

Actions by the Governing Board – Apr. 16, 2026

Review and Provide Comment on the 2025 Annual Report to the Community

The purpose of the Annual Report to the Community is to provide Valley residents with a detailed account of the District's operations in the preceding year. In contrast to the many detailed, highly scientific and technical reports that are regularly published by the District, this report outlines the District's goals, objectives, legal obligations, and actions in a more concise and easy to follow format for the general public. At the April Governing Board meeting, the Board provided comments and feedback on the 2025 report. The report details the milestone clean air year for air quality, current regulatory challenges faced by the District and the extensive growth in the District's emissions reduction incentive programs, reviews the accomplishments of the past year and highlights key issues faced by Valley with regard to air quality. Once finalized, the report will be translated into Spanish and copies will be available online at www.valleyair.org and as printed hardcopies upon request.

Adopt Proposed Amendments to Rule 4101(Visible Emissions)

The Governing Board adopted amendments to Rule 4101 (Visible Emissions), which restricts the emissions of visible air contaminants into the atmosphere. Visible emissions are evaluated and determined by qualified observers in accordance with EPA method 9. Qualified observers of EPA Method 9 are required to complete training and a certification process every six months. Previously, Rule 4101 required that observers be trained and certified exclusively by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The amendments to the rule expanded the options available for certifying observers to include a new alternative method, ALT-152A, approved by EPA in 2023, which uses a virtual reality headset. These amendments allow more flexibility to both the District and industry stakeholders to utilize other options besides CARB for certification, while still upholding that training and certification must meet the standards set in Method 9 or an approved alternative method.

Receive Update on Agricultural Open Burning Phase-Out Strategy and Approve Emergency Measures to Extend Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program Through Remainder of 2025-26 Fiscal Year

The Valley Air District's Governing Board received an update on the implementation of District's agricultural open burning phase-out strategy, including the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program. The District is now in the process of implementing and enforcing the updated phase-out strategy, with significant reductions in emissions already achieved to date through the implementation of this strategy. The item included a discussion of the funding shortfall in the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program and several proposed short-term emergency measures meant to address this shortfall and extend the program for the remainder of the current fiscal year and ensure near-term program sustainability. The Governing Board approved emergency measures including a temporary reduction in incentive levels across all crop types to extend the reach of the program and create more consistent applicant cost share levels across the various crop types and a one-time limited infusion of \$8,000,000 in District funding to help ensure the program can remain available and responsive to the needs of Valley growers for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The District committed to revisit these emergency measures this June, once the state budget and funding outlook becomes more clear.

Verbal Report on Clean Air Act Implementation

This item provided an informational update on the status of planning and implementation efforts to attain the federal PM_{2.5} and ozone standards, including ongoing EPA review of District and CARB plan submissions, contingency measures, transportation conformity requirements, recent legal filings

related to the 2022 Ozone Plan, and pending EPA action required by July 17, 2026 to act on the existing plan or a revised new plan. The update also included discussion of EPA's pending action to grant a five-year extension for the 2024 PM2.5 Plan, which is critical to allow time to develop a revised plan and to avoid a Section 189(d) plan (5% Plan). Additionally, the update addressed the high likelihood that EPA will determine the Valley failed to attain the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standard, which would require the District and CARB to develop a Section 189(d) plan (5% Plan). The update further discussed a related action indicating that EPA erred in granting the initial five-year extension for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standard, thereby reverting the applicable attainment deadline to December 31, 2019.

March District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- In March, the Outreach Team has continued engaging with communities throughout the Valley by participating in several community health fairs and connecting with local families and residents. The team has also partnered with school sites across the Valley to provide Coffee Hour presentations and participate in various Resource Nights, helping share information about air quality, District programs, and available air quality resources.
- The team also supported Stockton's AB 617 Lawnmower Trade-In and Tune-In Tune-Up event. The Valley Air District, in partnership with Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN), hosted the combined event at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. During the event, 368 residents living within the Stockton AB 617 community boundary exchanged their older, gas-powered lawnmowers for new, free zero-emission electric STIHL lawnmowers. District staff also promoted the Clean Air Rooms Program and provided information on how eligible Stockton AB 617 residents could qualify for a free air purifier.
- In March, District staff responded to 4 media calls, 38 public calls, 37 emails, and participated in sixteen events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	March 2026	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB617	Road Paving	0	\$0.00	\$531,815.34
	Urban Greening	0	\$0.00	\$88,561.39
	Vegetative Barriers	0	\$0.00	\$34,852.13
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	125	\$462,700.00	\$1,142,174.46
CAP & Trade	Demonstration	0	\$0.00	\$9,124,304.45
Community Benefit	Alt to Fireworks	0	\$0.00	\$52,500.00
	Residential	127	\$27,383.74	\$0.00
	Ag Burn Alternative	130	\$5,332,351.50	\$2,379,347.09

Heavy-Duty	Ag Engine	0	\$0.00	\$47,774.10
	Ag-UTV	0	\$0.00	\$237,709.05
	Forklift	4	\$266,907.66	\$429,921.32
	Infrastructure	0	\$0.00	\$1,101,054.00
	Low-Dust Harvester	0	\$0.00	\$623,820.34
	Off-Road	74	\$6,923,088.83	\$13,983,927.26
	On-Road	27	\$3,039,885.54	\$0.00
	School Bus	0	\$0.00	\$6,937,655.49
	Yard Truck	0	\$0.00	\$982,588.75
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	81	\$331,200.00	\$229,189.50
	Residential	174	\$16,564.86	\$17,120.88
Legal Entity	SubContractor / Partner	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Light Duty	Charge Up	5	\$171,000.00	\$15,000.00
	Drive Clean	8	\$16,000.00	\$85,000.00
	EFMP	210	\$3,439,852.46	\$1,635,852.46
	TITU	297	\$1,166,427.80	\$1,138,965.97
	Clean Air Centers	1	\$15,921.25	\$0.00
REMOVE II	Alternate Fuel Training	0	\$0.00	\$11,565.00
Special Projects	Infrastructure	0	\$0.00	\$1,546.21
	Totals	1,264	\$21,209,283.64	\$40,832,245.19

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
364	414	350	1,134

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

Citizens Advisory Committee*

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

9:00 AM, May 14

10:00 AM, Jun. 2

5:30 PM, Jun. 25

Meetings are held in the Fresno office Governing Board Room, Modesto VTC room and Bakersfield VTC room.
Details: www.valleyair.org

*Webcast