

Actions by the Governing Board – Sept. 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

The Valley Air District Governing Board accepted \$37,500 from the California Air Resources Board Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program to fund alternatives to agricultural open burning. The CARB SEP Program allows community-based projects to be funded from a portion of the penalties received during settlement of CARB enforcement actions. 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.

Receive Update on Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy and Approve Enhancements to Fireplace and Woodstove Changeout Incentive Program

The Governing Board received an update on upcoming changes to the District's Residential Woodsmoke Reduction Strategy. Due to some key planning actions that have occurred earlier this year, the contingency provision within the District's Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) has been triggered, and as a result, the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Kings, and Tulare will have their residential wood burning curtailment thresholds lowered to match those of the counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kern. With this change, additional curtailment days are expected for the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Kings, and Tulare. To accompany this change, the Governing Board also approved of updates to the Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out Incentive Program, by now offering the higher incentive amount for all Valley counties, which were previously offered to only the hot-spot counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kern. The Governing Board also received an update on the enhanced outreach and education efforts that will accompany this program change, to help residents now subject to additional curtailment days understand how to comply with the rule and participate in the incentive program. These program changes are planned to take place ahead of the 2026-2027 winter season.

August District Activities

Outreach and Communications

- During the month of August, we focused on connecting with schools throughout the Valley through back-to-school events and outreach opportunities. This was also an ideal time to refresh and provide schools with important resources, including "No Idling" signs, while educating parents and families about the importance of reducing vehicle idling around school campuses to help improve air quality.
- August 3, the District participated in the Clean Air Technology Showcase at the California State Capitol. The showcase provided an opportunity to engage Legislators and their staff, policymakers, and other stakeholders on clean air issues. It highlighted technologies and strategies that can help improve air quality and protect public health, particularly in environmental justice communities, while supporting California's economy and jobs. Exhibits featured air monitoring and incident response, AB 617 communities, Air Districts, and a range of clean technologies, including light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, municipal vehicles, fuel cell and mobile battery technologies, and electric lawn and garden equipment.
- In August, District staff responded to 4 media calls, 41 public calls, 20 emails, and participated in twenty events/presentations.

Grants and Incentive Programs

	August 2026	Grants Offered		Amount Paid
Key	Program	Number of Contracts Sent Out	Sum of Grant Funding	Sum of Grant Funding
AB617	Car Sharing	0	\$0.00	\$25,300.00
	Urban Greening	0	\$0.00	\$10,399.20
	Vegetative Barriers	2	\$56,006.44	\$13,699.56
Burn Cleaner	Wood Stove Change Out	64	\$242,200.00	\$304,395.00
Community Benefit	Residential	228	\$49,161.36	\$89,482.30
Community Subsidy	Transit Bus Subsidy	0	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Heavy-Duty	Ag Burn Alternative	134	\$2,444,732.00	\$3,214,760.00
	Ag-UTV	0	\$0.00	\$54,000.00
	Forklift	8	\$445,823.54	\$177,641.58
	Low-Dust Harvester	4	\$1,044,094.67	\$1,062,475.26
	Off-Road	44	\$5,309,543.79	\$8,487,790.38
Lawn & Garden	Commercial	0	\$0.00	\$21,854.23
	Residential	486	\$170,971.00	\$168,665.80
Light Duty	Charge Up	6	\$102,000.00	\$6,000.00
	Drive Clean	100	\$198,000.00	\$0.00
	EFMP	79	\$1,333,781.20	\$914,281.20
	E-Mobility Trip Reduction	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TITU	264	\$918,110.25	\$778,336.30
Public Benefits	Alternative Fuel	0	\$0.00	\$957,390.94
VW Nox Mitigation	Replacement	0	\$0.00	\$384,000.00
	Totals	1,419	\$12,314,424.25	\$16,671,971.75

Reductions from Executed Contracts (tons)			
NOx	PM	ROG	Total
423	425	369	1,220

Upcoming Meetings

Governing Board*

Citizens Advisory Committee*

Environmental Justice Advisory Group

9:00 AM, Oct. 15

10:00 AM, Dec. 1

5:30 PM, Oct. 22

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

Details: www.valleyair.org

**Webcast*