



San Joaquin Valley

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

PUBLIC BENEFIT GRANTS PROGRAM

Community Improvement Projects that Reduce Vehicle Use and Emissions Eligibility Criteria and Application Guidelines

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) is currently accepting applications from public agencies requesting funding for land use and community development projects that will reduce vehicle use and emissions through enhanced walkability and increased use of zero and near-zero emission transportation options. The purpose of this grant is to provide the means to bring additional Cap and Trade and other state and federal funds to the Valley by providing match funds for these programs. Applicants may apply for up to 50% of the cost of the project, with a funding cap of \$3 million per project, per applicant. For additional information, assistance, or to receive application materials, please contact:

**Ashley Burrow or
David Lopez**
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Strategies and Incentives Department
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244

You may also contact us by phone or e-mail, or visit our website at:

(559) 230-5800
grants@valleyair.org
www.valleyair.org

Please Note the Following:

- All projects will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- You may **not** start construction or purchase equipment in which you are requesting funding prior to obtaining an executed contract with the SJVAPCD. Any contractual costs or work commenced **prior** to contract execution is **ineligible** for funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The purpose of this program is to provide necessary match funding to public agencies as a means of support, enhancing their grant applications for local, state, and federal funds. Program funds are to be used for specific land use and community development projects located within the boundaries of the SJVAPCD that reduce vehicle use and emissions.

❖ The **applicant** must:

- Be a public agency such as cities, counties, special districts (i.e. water districts, irrigation districts, etc.); public educational institutions (i.e. school districts, community colleges, state universities, etc.) or any other public agency as defined by Government Code section 6252, including those agencies provided for in Article IV and Article VI of the California Constitution, that are located within the geographic area of the SJVAPCD (see map on page 9 for boundaries).
 - Private/Public partnerships are encouraged; however, please note that if selected for funding, the agreement will be between the SJVAPCD and the public agency. The agreement will hold the public agency responsible for the completion of the project.
- Submit by e-mail, mail, or hand-deliver all completed applications to the SJVAPCD's Strategies and Incentives Department at the address listed on Page 1 of these guidelines.
- Provide a resolution from the applicant's governing body (i.e. City Council or County Board of Supervisors), or other documentation signed by a duly authorized official with authority to make financial decisions, authorizing the submittal of the application and identifying the individual authorized to implement the project.
- Commit to a three (3) year contract period.
- Adhere to all program requirements during the contract period.
- Maintain commercial general and automotive liability insurance with minimum limits of coverage in the amount of \$5 million per occurrence and workers' compensation in accordance with California law through the full term of the contract.
- Submit a current copy of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form W-9 (Form W-9).
- Submit annual reports to the SJVAPCD through the full term of the contract as well as comply with recordkeeping and audit requirements.
- Agree to allow the SJVAPCD to inspect the project at any time during the contract period.
- Disclose additional funding sources or other financial incentive(s) and funding amounts received or to be applied for by the applicant towards the project.
- Have match funding available to complete the project in a timely fashion or are applying to secure remaining funds from another grant scheduled to open within 6 months from time of application submittal.
- Sign a legally binding contract with the SJVAPCD agreeing to the project milestones and completion deadlines prior to funding being awarded.
- Have completed all necessary environmental clearances, including those required by the California Environmental Quality Act and have no outstanding legal challenges.

- Have all the necessary permits and discretionary land use approvals.
- Have site control, an enforceable right to use a parcel of land for the life of the project, such as a deed, lease, or easement.

❖ The **project** must:

- Provide for public infrastructure or community design that facilitates reductions in current vehicle miles traveled, or facilitates future development projects with reduced vehicle miles traveled.
 - Projects must fall into one of the three following eligible categories:
 - **Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Project:** A project that reduces VMT's by integrating High Quality Transit systems and key destinations. **High Quality Transit** is defined as a transit line with high frequencies (peak period headway frequency of every 15 minutes or less, seven days a week) and permanent infrastructure (railway or Bus Rapid Transit).
 - **Integrated Connectivity Project (ICP):** A project that reduces VMT's through fewer or shorter vehicle trips or mode shift to transit use, bicycling or walking within area lacking **High Quality Transit**.
 - **Rural Innovation Project Area (RIPA):** A project that reduces VMT's through fewer or shorter vehicle trips or mode shift to transit use, bicycling or walking within areas lacking **High Quality Transit** within a rural area.
- Be located within one-half (1/2) mile from a transit station/stop.
- Not cause the loss of agricultural land, other working lands, or natural resource lands for other uses.
- Be located within and/or benefit a disadvantaged community. SJVAPCD will use the latest version of EPA's CalEnviroScreen to determine disadvantaged communities. See <http://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen> for more details and to determine if your project is located within a disadvantaged community.
- Be located within the SJVAPCD boundaries in the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and the Valley portion of Kern (see map on page 6 for boundaries).

❖ **Additional phases or developments of the project:**

If additional phases or developments within the area are planned for the project, the SJVAPCD will calculate the estimated future emission reductions and include them as part of the total sum of emission reductions. **However, future projects (or future phases of existing projects) for which emission reductions are claimed in the current application may not be included in future applications to the SJVAPCD.** Future emission reductions will only be calculated if project specifics necessary to calculate the emissions are known at time of application.

- Additional phases or developments must be located within ½ mile from the primary project.
- Only future emission reductions from reduced VMT's will be calculated.

- Additional phases or developments must be expected to be completed within 5 years of the project being completed.
- Applicant is to complete Sections 3 and 4 of the application for any future phases or developments that future emissions are to be calculated for.

❖ **General Information:**

- Eligible items are costs related to the construction, rehabilitation, and/or other physical improvements necessary for the completion of the project.
- Ineligible items include, but are not limited to, those items not directly related to the construction of the project, such as feasibility studies, administrative costs, employee compensation, marketing, outreach programs, travel expenses, ongoing maintenance, etc.
- Construction performed and/or items purchased prior to an executed contract with the SJVAPCD are **ineligible**. A contract is not deemed executed until all parties have signed. Only work performed and/or purchased within the contract period are eligible for reimbursement.
- Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, within each region of the SJVAPCD. To ensure equitable distribution of program funds, funding will be distributed between the following three SJVAPCD regions based on population. If an insufficient number of applications are received in a specific region, the remaining funds for that region may be used to fund a project in different region. The three regions are comprised of the following counties:
 - Northern Region: San Joaquin , Stanislaus, and Merced
 - Central Region: Madera, Fresno, and Kings
 - Southern Region: Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern
- Applicants are restricted to the following limitations:
 - Applicants may apply for up to 50% of the total project cost, up to \$3,000,000 per project, whichever is less.
 - Maximum funding per applicant is \$3,000,000 per funding cycle.
- Multiple applications may be submitted from the same applicant; however, funding will be limited to the above.
- All applications received will be subject to a review process, which will include the following:
 - Verification of the applicant’s eligibility to participate in the Program.
 - Verification that the proposed project is consistent with these guidelines.
 - Determination that all information necessary to calculate benefits and costs is included.
- Funding will be limited to a cost-effectiveness level of \$40,000 to \$80,000 per ton of emissions reduced.
 - Cost-effectiveness level is based on the extent of leveraging funds provided by the applicants as follows:

% of Total Project Funding Provided by Non-SJVAPCD Funding Sources	SJVAPCD Funding Level (\$/ton of criteria pollutant reductions)
50% to 74%	\$40,000
75% to 89%	\$60,000
90% or greater	\$80,000

- SJVAPCD staff will calculate the cost-effectiveness of the project using the most current version of the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement cost-effectiveness analysis tools. Funding will be determined based upon the total emission reductions of criteria pollutants (NOx, ROG, and PM) with the corresponding cost per ton of criteria pollutant reductions as listed above.
- Unless written notification is provided stating otherwise, all applications submitted to the SJVAPCD will remain active and will be funded in the order received pending the availability of funds.
- Applicants may be asked to reapply if any aspect of the project is changed.
- Payments shall be made to the applicant only after a completed claim for payment has been received by the SJVAPCD along with all supporting documentation. Items necessary for a complete claim for payment will be outlined in the grant agreement.

MAP OF THE SJVAPCD

