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AIR QUALITY WORK GROUP (AQ)

Lead Organization: The Maddy Institute, California State University, Fresno

ACTIONS	STATUS		2010 2nd QUARTER (Apr 1 - Jun 30)
Goal 1: Achieve U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 by the current attainment date, or as soon as practicable thereafter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. There were two Strategic Planning Meetings of the AQWG (May 3, May 19) to review the original Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and review a preliminary draft of the Air District's accomplishments relative to the SAP to determine what work still needs to be done. On June 16 there was an AQWG meeting where the updated SAP was presented to members of the work group for their thoughts and suggestions. Guidelines for the next several years were discussed as well as the current status of the work of the Air District's Fast Track Task Force.
Objective A: Negotiate with U.S. EPA to address federal constraints on alternative compliance emission reduction programs.			
Monitor negotiations between SJVAPCD, ARB, and EPA and intervene as necessary to help facilitate a successful outcome.			
Objective B: Negotiate with U.S. EPA allowance of SIP credits for incentive programs.			
Monitor negotiations between the SJVAPCD, ARB and EPA and intervene as necessary to help facilitate a successful outcome.			
Objective C: Work with ARB to identify appropriate criteria for incentive programs in the Valley.			
Work with the SJVAPCD and the ARB to develop modified incentive program guidelines that generate surplus emissions, are cost-effective, are sufficiently attractive to incent the desired investment, and are designed and implemented in a timely manner.			
Goal 2: Encourage EPA adoption of tighter federal emission control standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Recommend that ARB work with U.S. EPA to ensure that On- and Off-Road Heavy Duty Vehicles and equipment comply with applicable new and in-use emission standards.			
Build consensus among Work Group on changes needed in current programs and proposed strategies for implementation.			
Objective B: Encourage U.S. EPA to develop the strongest emission control standards for locomotives. Negotiate with railroads to ensure early introduction of the cleanest locomotives into the San Joaquin Valley fleet.			
Act as a catalyst to encourage timely and effective action by EPA and railroads.			

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Goal 3: Implement incentive mechanisms to accelerate adoption of air quality mitigation technologies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Establish Air Quality Mitigation Zones (state level designation).			
Work with all relevant stakeholders to design the Air Quality Mitigation Zone and enabling legislation.			
Conduct campaign to educate local and state leaders on the importance of this vehicle for emissions reduction.			
Monitor implementation.			
Objective B: Establish Air Quality Empowerment Zone (Federal level designation).			Ongoing. The Air and Health Quality Empowerment Zone Designation Act of 2010 has been introduced in both chambers of the U.S. Congress, by Senator Boxer (S 3373) and Congressman McNerney (HR 5296). Both bills were introduced in May 2010 and are currently in committee. The Partnership has been in communication with staff in the district and expressed the Partnership's support. The Partnership has also offered assistance in building support among the Valley delegation. We are drafting a template letter of support that can be used by AQWG members and others who will want to express support for the legislation
Work with all relevant stakeholders to design the Air Quality Empowerment Zone and enabling legislation.			
Conduct campaign to educate local and Federal leaders on the importance of this vehicle for emissions reduction.			
Monitor implementation.			
Objective C: Establish and fund a 5-year program to scrap and replace approximately 6,000 gross polluting passenger vehicles per year and achieve 20 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.			
Work with SJVAPCD and ARB to design program and enabling legislation (if required).			
Work with Valley's Federal and state legislative delegation and the SJVAPCD to identify sources of funding.			

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Monitor program implementation.		
Objective D: Establish and fund a 5-year program to scrap and replace approximately 7,500 heavy duty diesel trucks per year and achieve 60 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.		
Work with SJVAPCD and ARB to design program and enabling legislation (if required).		
Work with Valley's Federal and State legislative delegation and the SJVAPCD to identify sources of funding.		
Monitor program implementation.		
Objective E: Establish and fund a 5-year scrap and replace program for off-road equipment to achieve 10 tons/day emissions reduction over 5 years.		
Work with SJVAPCD and ARB to design program and enabling legislation (if required).		
Work with Valley's Federal and State legislative delegation and the SJVAPCD to identify sources of funding.		
Monitor program implementation.		
Objective F: School Bus Fleet Modernization.	WIA	
<i>Note: The process the Maddy Institute will use to implement this recommendation will depend on whether or not the Transportation Bond Measure is approved by the voters in November 2006.</i>		
If Bond measure is passed, work with the SJVAPCD and the Valley school districts to catalyze prompt action to implement modernization programs that can be funded through bond measure proceeds.		
If the Bond measure is not passed, work with Valley's Federal and state legislative delegation to establish and identify sources of funding for a school bus fleet modernization program.		
Monitor program implementation.		
Goal 4: Promote clean energy projects (with Energy Work Group).	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Establish a San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization		C Has been established and continues with leadership by Energy Work Group
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Energy Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested by the Energy Work Group</i>		
Collaborate with Energy Work Group to create a San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Office.		

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Objective B: Establish San Joaquin Valley Clean Vehicle Information Exchange.		WIA	
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by CALSTART, working in conjunction with the Energy Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested.</i>			
Collaborate with the Energy Work Group and CALSTART to develop a Clean Vehicle Information Exchange proposal.			
Objective C: Implement Community Choice Aggregation Project.			
<i>Note: The first Community Choice Aggregation Project is being led by the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD). The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Work Group, will provide support as requested by KRCD.</i>			
Collaborate with Energy Work Group to implement Community Choice Aggregation Projects.			
Objective D: Net metering within same agricultural operation or water district.			
Convene meeting with Valley state legislative delegation, Air Quality Work Group and all other relevant stakeholders to secure support for net metering within the same agricultural operation or water district.			
Help design program/enabling legislation.			
Monitor program implementation.			
Objective E: Incentivize use of agricultural biomass for fuel and energy production.			
Collaborate with Energy and Economic Development Work Groups to create a workgroup to identify barriers, and recommendations to overcome those barriers, to the expanded use of agricultural waste material for energy production (including the design and funding of incentive mechanisms).			
Help design implementation program.			
Monitor program implementation.			
Goal 5: Improve transportation mobility and goods movement (with Transportation Work Group).	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Evaluate Highway Tolling Option (joint recommendation with Transportation Work Group).			
Collaborate with the Transportation Work Group to secure funding to research and evaluate road pricing projects.			
Help facilitate and monitor research and evaluation.			
Support next steps following conclusion of research and evaluation.			

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Objective B: Urban Traffic Synchronization Pilot.		
Work with the Valley COGs and Caltrans to identify a site or sites for the pilot.		
Define the pilot parameters.		
Help secure funding for the project		
Monitor program implementation.		
Objective C: Evaluate/implement short sea shipping.		
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Transportation Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested by the Transportation Work Group.</i>		
Collaborate with the Transportation Work Group to evaluate the economic feasibility of short sea shipping and its potential air quality benefits.		
If economic feasibility is positive, support implementation efforts.		
Objective D: Evaluate/implement multi-modal facilities.		
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Transportation Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested by the Transportation Work Group.</i>		
Collaborate with the Transportation Work Group to evaluate the economic feasibility of multimodal facilities and their potential air quality benefits.		
If economic feasibility is positive, support implementation efforts.		
Objective E: Evaluate/implement rail improvements.		
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Transportation Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested by the Transportation Work Group.</i>		
Collaborate with Transportation Work Group to encourage and implement rail improvements.		
Objective F: Evaluate/implement mass transit options.		
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Transportation Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested by the Transportation Work Group.</i>		
Collaborate with Transportation Work Group to encourage and implement mass transit options.		
Goal 6: Encourage green local government.	<input type="checkbox"/> WIA	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.

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Objective A: Accelerate use of clean energy technology in municipal and state operations.			
Make presentations to the Valley COGs, principal municipalities and major state operations in the Valley, encouraging them to accelerate use of clean energy in their operations.			
Monitor program implementation.			
Objective B: Include air quality scoring criteria in all municipal and state procurement contracts.			
Help draft a model ordinance calling for air quality scoring criteria to be included in all municipal procurement contracts.			
Make presentations to the principal municipalities encouraging them to adopt the ordinance.			
Encourage the State government to adopt similar criteria for all state procurement contracts.			
Monitor program implementation.			
Objective C: Adopt Green Building standards.		WIA	
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Energy Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested.</i>			
Collaborate with the Energy Work Group to develop and encourage use of green building standards.			
Objective D: Adopt new land use guidelines.			
<i>Note: Implementation of this recommendation will be led by the Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Work Group. The Maddy Institute, on behalf of the Air Quality Work Group, will provide support as requested.</i>			
Collaborate with the Land Use, Agriculture, and Housing Work Group to encourage adoption of new land use guidelines that benefit air quality.			
Goal 7: Accelerate research of critical emissions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Agricultural PM10, PM2.5 and ROG emissions research.			
Convene interested stakeholders to evaluate the need and set priorities for research on agricultural equipment and agricultural operations that will help obtain emission reductions.			
Assist stakeholders in identifying projects that could qualify for funding under the Farm Bill as well as the Innovative Clean Air Technologies (ICAT) program.			
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Objective B: Research of dairy emissions sources and best available control technology (BACT).			
Work with the SJVAPCD to convene interested stakeholders to define priorities and funding requirements for dairy emissions research and projects.			
Assist stakeholders in securing funding.			
Monitor program implementation.			
Goal 8: Improve public understanding of air quality issues and solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	IP	Ongoing. See explanation at Goal 1.
Objective A: Conduct Public Education Campaign.			
Enlist the involvement of representatives from regulatory agencies, public interest organizations, public sector institutions and the private sector to join a public education task force.			
Solicit funding to retain a public relations/marketing/polling firm to develop a comprehensive public education strategy (or develop a scaled down strategy using Maddy "in house" resources).			
Define the content of a possible public education campaign and its potential ROI (cost per unit of emissions reduced). Make a go/no-go recommendation to the SJVAPCD, ARB and Cal/EPA.			
If campaign is recommended and approved, provide implementation support.			
Objective B: Publish and distribute "user-friendly" air quality improvement plan and annual progress report.			
Assist the SJVAPCD in publishing a "user-friendly" report. Conduct focus groups to evaluate readability, clarity, visual appeal and effectiveness of the materials.			
Assist with dissemination of materials, public service coverage and presentations to civic groups and other Valley stakeholders.			
Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback encountered during the quarter			
New funds leveraged during the quarter.			