

**Work Group:** Air Quality  
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### **Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

*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*

#### **On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles Regulation (“Truck Rule”)**

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a new rule in December to reduce emissions from existing diesel-fueled trucks, buses, and other vehicles operating in the state. The regulation applies to nearly all in-use on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles regardless of where the vehicle is registered. The Air Quality Work Group (AQWG) worked with local trucking owner-operators to determine the fiscal impact on local fleets and ARB staff to relay concerns.

*Goal 2: Encourage EPA adoption of tighter federal emission control standards*

No action taken.

*Goal 3: Implement incentive mechanisms to accelerate adoption of air quality mitigation technologies*

#### **Diesel Incentives Exploration Working Group**

AQWG participated in a meeting with business and environmental representatives on Nov. 14 in an effort to pursue additional programs/funding for incentives to reduce diesel emissions in the greater Central Valley.

#### **Legislation**

AQWG continues to work on passage and implementation of state and federal legislation that will bring additional clean air incentive funding to the Valley.

*Goal 4: Promote clean energy projects (with Energy Work Group)*

#### **San Joaquin Clean Energy Organization (CEO)**

AQWG continues to participate in meetings of the established Clean Energy Organization and provide input as necessary. Staff has provided government affairs support in the efforts of federal legislation on clean energy, and state bill AB 2176, signed into law on Aug. 1, which would establish the criteria for a portion of the federal Energy Efficient Block Grant funds that flow through state agencies.

#### **“Farming Clean Energy Conference”**

AQWG participated in the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization’s “Farming Clean Energy Conference Nov. 5-6. The conference identified actions that farmers and agri-business owners and others could take to develop successful clean energy projects in the San Joaquin Valley. More than 200 participants from diverse industries—including agricultural sector representatives, the financial community, clean technology vendors, utilities, and regulators—attended this event and shared their views and perspectives on clean energy in the Valley.

*Goal 5: Improve transportation mobility and goods movement (with Transportation Work Group)*

AQWG consultants remain engaged in activities of the Transportation Work Group and the Council of Governments Regional Policy Council regarding goods movement plans and high-speed rail.

#### **High Speed Rail**

The Partnership has been participating in a working group facilitated by the California High-Speed Rail Authority to pursue construction of a higher-speed Altamont route connecting the Valley. With the passage of the HSR bond in November, planning efforts are now under way for the Altamont project.

*Goal 6: Encourage “green” local government policies and sustainable communities*

No action taken

*Goal 7: Accelerate research on emission-reduction strategies and clean-air technologies, establishing the San Joaquin Valley as a leader in innovation*

No action taken

*Goal 8: Improve public understanding of air quality issues and solutions*

### **Partnership Annual Summit**

On Dec. 11, AQWG gave a presentation explaining the air quality problem in the Valley, including an overview of the current data, and reported on their activities and successes.

### **Seed Grant Award for Air Quality Education in Environmental Justice Areas**

The Maddy Institute was awarded \$250,000 to team with The Project Team of Community Focus and Valley Clean Air Now (CAN) to implement a pilot project aimed at reducing air pollution in the Valley in three communities: Arvin, Avenal, and Parlier. *Please review separate seed grant report for updated outreach information.*

### **“The Maddy Forum” KFSR 90.7/Podcast**

The Maddy Institute created a public affairs radio program called “The Maddy Forum” on 90.7 KFSR. The weekly program features conversations about the important public policy issues facing the San Joaquin Valley, and interviews with local leaders and elected officials. Shows this quarter have highlighted issues such as clean energy, the Blueprint, housing and transportation.

### **Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)**

Continue to pursue a “dual path” to clean air by seeking the commercialization of new technologies as well as incentive mechanisms that will assist the Valley in accelerating the attainment of Clean Air standards by 2017.

Continue to work with the High-Speed Rail Altamont Working Group on efforts to build a high-speed rail system connecting the Valley.

Continue to monitor progress on ARB’s regulations, such as Heavy-Duty In-Use Diesel Regulation and AB 32/Greenhouse Gas Regulations, and analyzing them for impacts on the Valley.

Work with members in the state legislature and Congress as well as the new Presidential Administration to bring focus on assisting the Valley in addressing its air quality challenges.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

None to report at this time

### **If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly**

AQWG remains directly involved with legislators and their staff, conducting consistent legislative outreach. The Partnership and Interagency Task Force convene Valley district office staffers from both the Congressional and state delegations monthly in which AQWG attends and actively participates.