

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

Fast Track Task Force (FTTF)

The Air Quality Work Group (AQWG) of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) participated in monthly meetings of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (Air District) Fast Track Task Force (FTTF) on April 22 and May 13. This group is responsible for progressing initiatives to help bring the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) into attainment as quickly as possible.

On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles Regulation (Truck Rule)

California Air Resources Board (ARB) is proposing a new rule to reduce emissions from existing diesel-fueled trucks, buses, and other vehicles operating in the state. The regulation would apply to nearly all in-use on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles regardless of where the vehicle is registered. AQWG met with local trucking owner-operators and ARB staff on May 22 to discuss the revised Truck Rule and its impact on local fleets. Additionally, AQWG participated in ARB's public workshop in Fresno on June 10.

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

Proposition 1B – Goods Movement Emissions Reduction Program

On May 22, ARB approved the final list of diesel emission reduction projects to be funded by the first installment of \$221 million out of the \$1 billion from voter-endorsed Proposition 1B. ARB voted to distribute \$221 million among California's four trade corridors based on the funding targets adopted last February. The allocation will place \$122 million for the Los Angeles/Inland Empire; \$55 million for the Central Valley; \$31 million for the Bay Area; and \$13 million for the San Diego/Border region.

The dissemination by categories would result in a total of:

- \$198.4 million to upgrade more than 8,200 trucks with cleaner equipment and engines
- \$16.5 million for 18 new locomotives
- \$2.5 million for shore electric power for cargo ships docking at the Port of San Diego
- \$4.3 million for 17 freight-related harbor craft

AQWG is helping disseminate information regarding the incentive program to Valley organizations and businesses.

Diesel Incentives Exploration Working Group

AQWG participated in a meeting with business and environmental representatives on July 10 to pursue additional programs/funding for incentives to reduce diesel emissions in the greater Central Valley.

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

San Joaquin Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)

AQWG continues to participate in meetings of the established San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization and provide input as necessary. Staff has provided government affairs support regarding federal appropriations for the Energy Efficiency Block Grant (EEBG) program and state bill AB 2176 which would establish the criteria for a portion of the EEBG funds that flow through state agencies.

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 Councils of Government Regional Policy Council regarding goods movement plans and high-speed rail.

High-Speed Rail

The Partnership has been participating in a working group to pursue construction of a higher-speed Altamont route connecting the Valley.

Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani introduced a bill to modify the HSR bond, AB 3034. AQWG successfully sought amendments to include Altamont as a segment of construction in the bond, and prioritize the construction through the Valley. AQWG staff continues to work with the High Speed Rail Authority and the Governor's Administration to secure these amendments and modify the bond accordingly.

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

On July 9, AQWG attended the California Emerging Clean Air Technology Forum, a collaborative effort between Air District, EPA, ARB, et al., to accelerate the development and implementation of technologies to achieve air quality goals. These agencies sponsored a one-day public forum, which focused on a variety of mobile and stationary source technologies. This event was the result of a meeting AQWG hosted in 2007 with EPA Administrator Johnson.

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

Healthy Air Living Campaign

AQWG worked with the Air District to prepare for its launch of its Healthy Air Living campaign July 7-13, 2008. It is a new, comprehensive, outreach initiative designed to further the Air District's mission to improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality-management strategies. It replaces the Air District's long-running Spare the Air program. The Healthy Air Living campaign is designed to help reduce Valleywide ozone precursor emissions and supplement the Air District's strong regulatory measures.

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

Continue to work with the High-Speed Rail Altamont Working Group and the Administration to pursue support for AB 3034 and passage of the bond in November.

Continue to monitor progress on Truck Rule and analyze for impacts on Valley. ARB will hold a public workshop on the proposed Truck Rule to be held in Fresno on Aug. 5. This will be the last series of workshops before the proposed regulation will be considered by ARB on Oct. 23, 2008.

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 on a monthly basis Valley district office staffers from both the congressional and state delegations in which AQWG attends and fully participates.