



News

December 17, 2018

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Clean Air Grants Reduce Smog and Focus on Environmental Justice

Ventura, CA (December 17, 2018) –

On December 11, 2018, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control Board approved \$4.4 million in emission reduction grants for Ventura County businesses. This year's grants will help pay for the replacement of 72 older, higher-polluting diesel engines in agricultural equipment, heavy-duty off-road equipment and commercial fishing boats with new lower-emission equipment. These grants will reduce smog-forming emissions countywide, with some of the grants focused on reducing toxic diesel particulate emissions in disadvantaged communities. The total annual emissions reductions from today's actions are 44.3 tons per year of ozone precursors, 2.6 tons per year of diesel particulate matter and 357 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) awards grants to the most cost-effective projects to achieve the maximum benefits in reducing smog-forming emissions. Ventura County does not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone (smog) and these incentive programs are an important part of the strategy to attain the health-based ozone standard. VCAPCD is also focused on reducing emissions of toxic diesel particulate matter in the county, and to address environmental justice a significant portion of grants will reduce emissions in disadvantaged communities (i.e. the greater Oxnard region).

This year, VCAPCD is participating in, and awarding grants through, three incentive programs in partnership with the California Air Resources Board (CARB): Carl Moyer, Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) and Community Air Protection (CAP). The majority of the funding is through the Carl Moyer Program, a long-standing incentive program offered jointly by CARB and California's local air districts, which provides grants for cleaner-than-required engines and equipment to help improve air quality in California. 2018 is the 20th year VCAPCD has administered this program. Since 1999, VCAPCD has awarded over \$42 million to businesses operating in Ventura County.

The FARMER Program is a new incentive program in 2018. It was created by the California Legislature to “reduce agricultural sector emissions by providing grants, rebates, and other financial incentives for agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors, and other equipment used in agricultural operations.”

The CAP Program is also a new incentive program in 2018. The CAP Program was developed by CARB to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 134 and AB 617. The Legislature directed the appropriated funds to be used for grants to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution.

The California Legislature set specific targets for allocating portions of the FARMER and CAP grant funding toward reducing pollution in disadvantaged communities. VCAPCD's Executive Officer, Michael Villegas, noted “I'm proud that VCAPCD staff, through our efforts to focus on grants that will reduce toxic diesel particulate in disadvantaged communities, has exceeded the state targets set for the FARMER and CAP programs.”

VCAPCD will begin accepting applications for next year's Carl Moyer, FARMER and CAP program grants in the spring of 2019.

Please call or email Michael Villegas, Air Pollution Control Officer at (805) 645-1440, or mike@vcapcd.org, for additional information. Information is also available at these links:

http://www.vcapcd.org/grant_programs.htm#Carl_Moyer_Program_.

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/moyer.htm>

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/farmer-program>

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/cap/capfunds.htm>

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