




air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Agenda Item: E-2  
Agenda Date: October 16, 2025  
Agenda Placement: Admin  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Lorena Saldana, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk, (805) 979-8282

SUBJECT: District Grant and Incentives Program Activity

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the following grant program related activity:

1. An update on the Heat Clean Program for woodsmoke reduction projects from the start of the program of May 8, 2025, through September 30, 2025;
2. An update on the Old Car Buy Back Program for vehicles retired during the period of August 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025; and
3. Status report of funding allocations and expenditures for the Clean Air Grant Programs from 2021 through 2025.

### DISCUSSION:

This item provides an update on grant and incentive programs and activities that occurred since your last Board meeting.

#### Heat Clean Program

The Heat Clean Program was launched on May 8, 2025, and the District employed a wide range of bilingual outreach tools including flyers sent to participating installers, email outreach to individuals and organizations, a news release, social media posts, and community newsletters. The Heat Clean Program provides incentive funds for the voluntary replacement of wood-burning heaters (fireplaces and wood stoves) with electric heaters (heat pumps and electric fireplace inserts). The Heat Clean Program is funded with approximately \$400,000 from the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Woodsmoke Reduction Program. Applications are being processed in a first-come, first-served order and incentives will be awarded until the funds are depleted.

Households in a State-designated low-income or disadvantaged community or on tribal lands, or that document low-income eligibility, can receive an enhanced voucher up to \$12,000 toward replacement with an electric air-source heat pump, and up to \$7,000 toward replacement with an electric fireplace insert. All other households may be eligible for a standard voucher up to \$5,000 toward replacement with an electric air-source heat pump and up to \$2,500 toward replacement with an electric fireplace insert. The replacement heater must be purchased and installed with a participating installer. There are seven installers for heat pumps and two installers for electric fireplace inserts.

As of September 30, 2025, 42 voucher project applications have been received which includes 21 enhanced fireplace inserts, eight (8) enhanced heat pumps, 11 standard fireplace inserts, and two (2) standard heat pumps, for a total of \$278,000 in voucher funds issued. As of September 30, 2025, \$98,707 in Project funds have been expended.

#### Old Car Buy Back Program:

The attached Old Car Buy Back Program update includes the number of vehicles retired, funds allocated, emissions reduced, average cost-effectiveness of program, and vehicle owner location. On August 21, 2025, the District Board approved modifications to the Old Car Buy Back program that increased the incentive amount to \$2,200 for vehicle owners and \$300 to dismantlers per vehicle scrapped. In addition, the current vehicle model year accepted by the program was increased from 1997 to 2002 model year or older. From August 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, 26 vehicles have purchased and retired.

#### Clean Air Grants Program:

The 2025 Clean Air Grants program application window closed on September 5, 2025 and has approximately \$2.8 million in CARB grant funds and DMV surcharge revenue available for projects. The District received 62 grant applications, and is currently reviewing them for completeness, prioritization, and conducting pre-inspections. Of the 62 applications, there are 42 off-road equipment replacements, 11 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, five (5) marine engine repowers, two (2) electric school bus fleet expansions, and two (2) on-road vehicle replacements. Currently, zero of the 62 applications (0%) have executed grant agreements. The District will prioritize zero-emission technology projects, along with projects located within disadvantaged communities, as defined by this map: [SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities](#). Successful projects will be eligible to receive a grant within a range from \$10,000 to \$250,000.

For the 2024 Clean Air Grants program, the District executed grant agreements for 42 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$3.3 million in CARB grant funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 42 projects, there are 30 off-road equipment replacements, 10 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, one (1) agricultural water pump, and one (1) marine engine repower. Currently, zero of the 42 projects (0%) have been completed with the remainder in the implementation process.

For the 2023 Clean Air Grants program, the District executed grant agreements for 40 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$2.7 million in CARB grant funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 40 projects, there are 28 off-road equipment replacements, 9

alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, and three (3) marine engine repowers. Currently, 32 of the 40 projects (80%) have been completed with the remainder in the implementation process.

For the 2022 Clean Air Grants program, the District is currently implementing 55 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$3.7 million in CARB grants funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 55 projects, there are 37 off-road equipment replacements, 10 alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, three (3) marine engine repowers, two (2) on-road heavy-duty vehicles, two (2) electric school bus fleet expansions, and one (1) agricultural water pump. Currently, 52 of the 55 projects (95%) have been completed with the remainder in the implementation process and one (1) alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure grant agreement for \$13,500 was recently terminated:

- AP222303: Encina Meadows Apartments requested termination of their grant agreement because the parking lot modifications needed for this project were too costly. The unexpended \$13,500 in grant funds from the Encina Meadows Apartments project will be redirected to other eligible projects to ensure that funds are allocated, implemented, and completed within the CARB grant program expenditure deadlines.

For the 2021 Clean Air Grants program, the District is currently implementing 31 projects throughout Santa Barbara County with approximately \$2.4 million in CARB grants funds and DMV surcharge revenue. Of these 31 projects, there are 19 off-road equipment replacements, nine (9) alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure purchases and installations, two (2) electric school bus fleet expansions, and one (1) marine engine repower. Currently, 28 of the 31 projects (90%) have been completed with the remainder in the implementation process.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Heat Clean Program Update.
- B. Old Car Buy Back Program Update.
- C. Grant Agreement Termination: AP222303 – Encina Meadows Apartments.

# ATTACHMENT A

## Heat Clean Program Update

October 16, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110



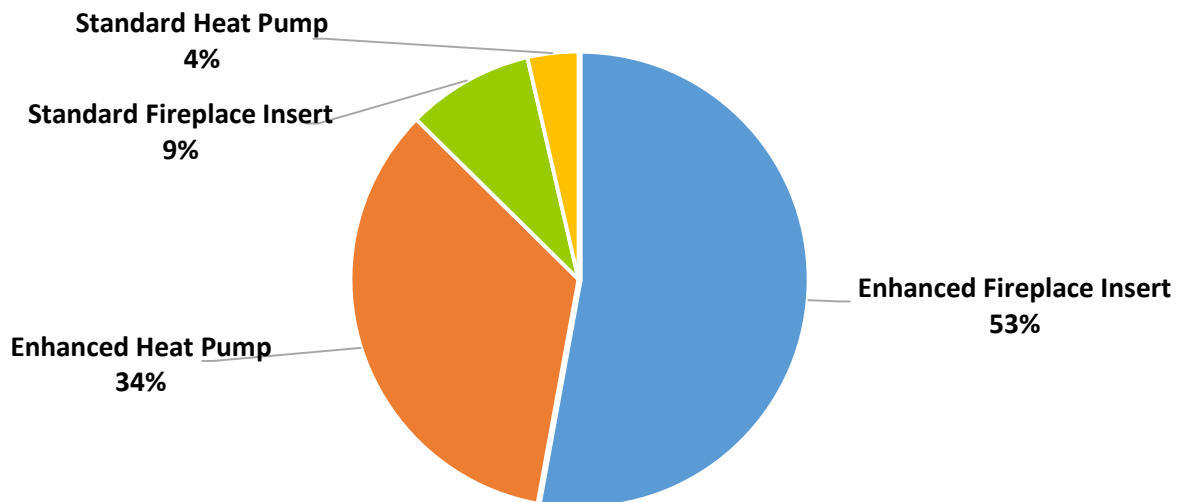
## Heat Clean Program Update

The Heat Clean Program provides incentive funds for residents to replace a wood-burning stove or fireplace with a cleaner burning and more efficient electric heater, either a heat pump or electric fireplace insert. Some households may qualify for a higher amount, an Enhanced Voucher, depending on the household's location in a state-designated low-income, disadvantaged, or tribal community, or based on the household's income. Households that do not qualify for the Enhanced Voucher may qualify for the Standard Voucher. The replacement heater must be purchased and installed with a participating installer who has signed an agreement with the District. The program is funded with \$445,004 from the California Air Resources Board. Applications were made available starting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and vouchers are issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are fully allocated.

The Program mitigates neighborhood impacts and achieves emission reductions in criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases by reducing the amount of woodsmoke emitted from fireplaces and wood stoves throughout the County.

Heat Clean Program Voucher Incentives (May 8, 2025 – September 30, 2025)				
Voucher Type	Project Type	Applications Received		Funds Expended
		Number	Funds Issued	
Enhanced	Fireplace Insert	21	\$147,000	\$50,207
	Heat Pump	8	\$96,000	\$36,000
Standard	Fireplace Insert	11	\$25,000	\$12,500
	Heat Pump	2	\$10,000	\$0
Total		42	\$278,000	\$98,707

### FUNDS ISSUED BY PROJECT TYPE



## ATTACHMENT B

### Old Car Buy Back Program Update

October 16, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110



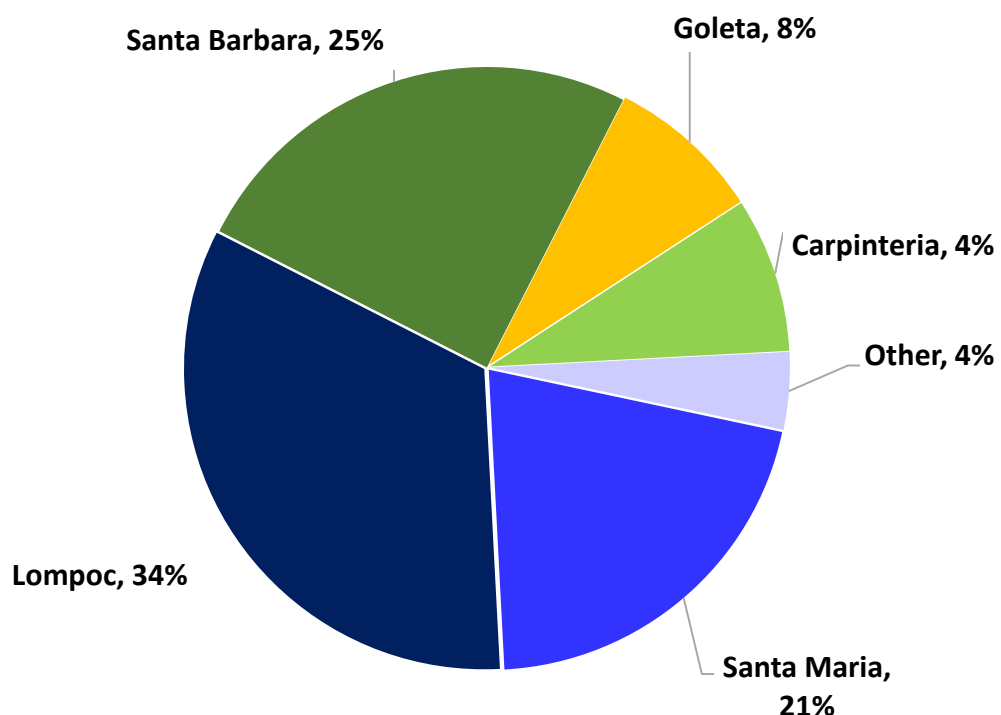
## Old Car Buy Back Program Update

The District's Old Car Buy Back Program pays Santa Barbara County vehicle owners \$2,200 to voluntarily retire their fully legal and operational 2002 or older, light or medium duty car, truck, van, or SUV. The regional dismantlers earn \$300 for each vehicle that they help retire. Currently, the total program cost is \$2,500 to retire a vehicle. To increase public participation, the program was modified in August 2025 to raise the vehicle owner payout and expand the vehicle model year eligibility.

The program accelerates the improvement of air quality by removing high polluting vehicles from the road, quicker than normal vehicle attrition. Funding for the program is derived from \$2 DMV registration surcharge funds. Below is the program data for the most recent reporting period and the entire fiscal year.

Old Car Buy Back Program Activity		
	8/1/2025 - 9/30/2025	FY 2025 - 2026
Vehicles retired	26	26
Funds committed @ \$2,500/vehicle	\$65,000	\$65,000
Total tons reduced [NOx+ ROC + PM]	1.63	1.63
Average project cost-effectiveness	\$43,052/ton	\$43,052/ton

### Vehicle Owner Location (FY 2025 - 2026)



## ATTACHMENT C

Grant Agreement Termination:  
AP222303 – Encina Meadows Apartments

October 16, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, California 93110





air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

August 11, 2025

Encina Meadows, L.P.

Attn: Robert L. Skinner, Chief Executive Officer

5839 Encina Road #107

Goleta, CA 93117

**RE: Termination of Grant Agreement AP222303**

Dear Robert L. Skinner:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) received your August 11, 2025 letter requesting termination of Grant Agreement AP222303, as executed on July 17, 2023. This letter serves as the District's acknowledgement and acceptance of your termination of the grant agreement for good cause, pursuant to Section 15.a (Termination).

Since the District has not provided any grant funds to Encina Meadows, L.P. in relation to the grant agreement, there is no obligation for Encina Meadows, L.P. to return any money to the District pursuant to Section 15.b (Termination). No further action is required on your part.

The District encourages The Towbes Group to apply to future Clean Air Grant Programs to install fueling or energy infrastructure to support the transition to cleaner, zero-emission technologies across Santa Barbara County.

Please contact Jim Fredrickson of my staff at [fredricksonj@sbcapcd.org](mailto:fredricksonj@sbcapcd.org) or (805) 979-8328, if you would like to discuss this issue further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aeron Arlin Genet,

Air Pollution Control Officer



August 11, 2025

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Attn: Sydney Rouse  
260 N San Antonio Rd. Suite #A  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

RE: Request to Terminate Grant Agreement AP222303

Dear Sydney Rouse,

This letter is to request termination of Grant Agreement AP222303 between Encina Meadows, L.P. and the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District from the 2022 Clean Air Grants Program.

While The Towbes Group is committed to clean energy initiatives, the corrective site work required to make the path of travel to the proposed EV charger location ADA compliant proved too costly for this project to be viable for property ownership.

Based on this condition, Encina Meadows, L.P. is requesting termination of Grant Agreement AP222303 for cause according to Section 15.a (Termination).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Robert L. Skinner*

51CAABFCBFCC44C...

ROBERT L. SKINNER, Chief Executive Officer  
Encina Meadows, L.P.