


Agenda Item: I-2
Agenda Date: January 15, 2026
Agenda Placement: Discussion
Estimated Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Jim Fredrickson, Planning Division Supervisor, (805) 979-8328

SUBJECT: Clean Air Fund Program Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider recommendations as follows:

1. Receive and file a presentation on the Clean Air Fund Program Update; and
2. Approve and authorize the District's Air Pollution Control Officer to implement projects utilizing the Clean Air Fund in the Buellton community, not to exceed \$60,000 within five years, by entering into agreements with the Buellton Union School District, and a contractor (to-be-determined) to develop an interactive, educational outdoor air quality exhibit at the Santa Ynez Valley Children's Museum in Buellton, subject to review and approval by District Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller.

BACKGROUND:

On March 21, 2019, your Board approved Resolution 19-03 that established the Clean Air Fund. Funded by excess revenues from Notices of Violation (NOVs), the Clean Air Fund was established to fund projects undertaken by the District and/or third parties that provide air quality and human health benefits for communities throughout Santa Barbara County, consistent with the District's mission. Clean Air Fund projects are subject to review and approval by your Board. The information below summarizes the results of the Clean Air Fund projects implemented since the inception of the program.

Your Board has previously approved the following projects using the Clean Air Fund:

Electric Landscape Equipment - Countywide

- At the October 15, 2020, Board meeting, your Board approved and authorized the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) to use up to \$100,000 of the Clean Air Fund for the Landscape Equipment Electrification Fund (LEEF Year 2).
- The LEEF Year 2 program was implemented from November 16, 2020, to September 30, 2021, and your Board received a final update on the LEEF Year 2 program as part of the October 21, 2021 board meeting package.
- 28 vouchers were issued and \$98,354.52 in Clean Air Funds were expended on 436 purchased electric landscape equipment items.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Countywide

- At the May 20, 2021, Board meeting, your Board approved and executed an Incentive Program Implementation Services Agreement with the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), as part of the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) South Central Coast Incentive Project (SCCIP) in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.
- The agreement identified \$3,450,000 in California Energy Commission funding for the Santa Barbara County region. The District provided \$300,000 in matching funds over three fiscal years, (\$200,000 of which was allocated from the Clean Air Fund, and the remaining \$100,000 came from the District's general fund), for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure purchase and installation.
- Overall, the CALeVIP SCCIP earmarked approximately \$5 million in incentive funding from the California Energy Commission, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), and the District for EV charging infrastructure projects in Santa Barbara County. At project launch, it was estimated that 363 Level 2 EV chargers and 70 Direct Current (DC) fast chargers would be funded by the program and installed throughout Santa Barbara County. The District expects to receive a final report from CSE in July 2026 that will specify the exact amount of funding and number of EV chargers installed from the CALeVIP SCCIP program.
- Three separate amendments were approved by your Board at the request of the CSE, the organization selected by the state to implement this program:
 - October 20, 2022, Amendment #1 to reflect minor discrepancies and incorporate CSE's grant agreement with the California Energy Commission into the agreement with the District.
 - June 15, 2023, Amendment #2 to incorporate changes to the Service Agreement's Administrative Fee and Incentive Funds, Term, and Payment Terms.
 - June 26, 2025, Amendment #3 to extend the Term from September 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025, to match the changes that the California Energy Commission made to their CALeVIP grant agreement with CSE earlier this year. These changes to the Term were needed to align with the final project completion deadline of October 31, 2025.
- Of the \$300,000 in District funds sent to CSE, \$21,000 was for their program administration of CALeVIP and \$279,000 was for EV charging infrastructure rebates. District funding was

specifically utilized to help fund the following two local projects (co-funded by the California Energy Commission):

- \$160,000 in CALeVIP rebates were awarded for four (4) DC fast chargers at the City of Santa Barbara's parking lot #10 (Ortega Garage) at the corner of Ortega and Anacapa streets. This project was operational by July 2025.
- \$320,000 in CALeVIP rebates were awarded for four (4) DC fast chargers at the Travelodge by Wyndham motel at 1514 S. Broadway in Santa Maria. This project was operational by July 2025.
- Due to various challenges that the implementing agency, CSE, faced in allocating all available funds towards local EV charging infrastructure projects in Santa Barbara County prior to the contract deadline, the District will receive the remaining balance of \$93,700 plus interest in unutilized funds in 2026. The District plans to reinvest these returned funds back into the Clean Air Fund for future community projects.

Indoor Air Purifiers – Guadalupe/Casmalia

- At the June 17, 2021, Board meeting, your Board authorized the District to establish and implement the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program using \$100,000 of District funds (\$25,000 of which was allocated from the Clean Air Fund) for indoor air purifier distribution to the disadvantaged communities of Guadalupe and Casmalia.
- In September 2021, the District conducted two highly successful distribution events at the Dunes Center in Guadalupe, along with targeted distribution at the Guadalupe Senior Center, Food Distribution Center, and Bonita Elementary School. 656 purifier units were purchased for \$100,000 and distributed to the community. When supplies were expended, a waiting list of 140 people was generated.
- At the October 21, 2021, Board meeting, your Board received an update on the Clean Air Rooms Pilot Program. District staff notified the Board that due to budget savings in the FY 2021-22 budget that your Board approved, an additional \$20,000 could be allocated from the District's operational budget to purchase air purifiers for the waiting list. Ultimately, 793 air purifiers were purchased and distributed to Guadalupe and Casmalia residents.

Clean Air Centers, Clean Air Classrooms, and Community Outreach and Engagement – Lompoc

- At the June 26, 2025, Board meeting, your Board received a presentation and authorized the District to implement projects utilizing the Clean Air Fund in the Lompoc Community, not to exceed \$325,000. The District is currently in the process of executing memorandums of agreement and implementing projects with the City of Lompoc, the United Boys & Girls Club Santa Barbara County – Lompoc Unit, the Lompoc Family YMCA, and the Lompoc Unified School District. The projects consist of three indoor air filtration Clean Air Center projects, Clean Air Classroom furniture replacement projects at two elementary schools, and community engagement and outreach in the Lompoc Community. Table 1 below provides a summary of these projects. Staff is currently working with these five organizations on the implementation of the identified projects and will provide a status of our efforts at your Board meeting.

Table 1. Clean Air Fund for Lompoc: Not to Exceed (NTE) Project Grant

Project Name and Location	Project Description	Project Grant
Clean Air Centers: Dick DeWees Community and Senior Center, 1120 West Ocean Avenue	Five-year agreement to maintain ten (10) HVAC systems, replace MERV-13 rated air filters, and be available as a Clean Air Center during wildfire season.	NTE \$40,000
Clean Air Centers: Lompoc Boys & Girls Club, 1025 West Ocean Avenue	Five-year agreement to install two (2) new HVAC systems, replace MERV-13 rated air filters, and be available as a Clean Air Center during wildfire season.	NTE \$50,000
Clean Air Centers: Lompoc Family YMCA, 201 West College Avenue	Five-year agreement to maintain five (5) HVAC systems, replace MERV-13 rated air filters, and be available as a Clean Air Center during wildfire season.	NTE \$20,000
Clean Air Classrooms: Lompoc Unified School District: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarence Ruth Elementary School, 501 North W Street, and;• Leonora Fillmore Elementary School, 1211 East Pine Street	Five-year agreement to replace existing school classroom wood furniture with ultra-low emitting formaldehyde wood furniture.	NTE \$200,000
Community Outreach and Engagement	Develop outreach events and community partnerships related to understanding air quality data and preparing for wildfire smoke impacts.	NTE \$15,000
	Total Grant Amount	\$325,000

DISCUSSION:

On August 15, 2025, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney reached a \$620,000 settlement against Central Coast Agriculture (CCA) which operates cannabis cultivation, harvesting, and processing facilities in Buellton. The civil complaint alleges that CCA illegally operated at least 16 diesel generators to power refrigeration units storing frozen cannabis and to power a cannabis cultivation greenhouse. Of the \$620,000, \$260,000 went to the District Attorney's office, \$100,000 went to the Santa Barbara County Bucket Brigade, and \$260,000 went to the District. Of the \$260,000 portion awarded to the District, twenty five percent of the total received (i.e., \$60,000) has been dedicated to the District's Clean Air Fund. Pending Board approval, the District proposes to use the \$60,000 to prioritize two projects that will benefit young children in the Buellton community.

Clean Air Centers Program – Buellton Union School District (595 Second Street)

The first project is to improve the indoor air quality in the Buellton Union School District's Oak Valley Elementary School, which was originally opened in 2002. The school site serves 400 elementary school students, 100 staff, 20 preschool students (as part of Oak Valley CommUnify Head Start Preschool), and 140 after school students (as part of the United Boys and Girls Club Santa Barbara County – Buellton Unit). Oak Valley Elementary School operates 38 Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems (37 original units and one brand new unit), all of which use air filters rated at the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) as level 8. The higher the MERV rating, the more effective the filter is at capturing specific types of particles. For example, a MERV-8-rated filter captures approximately 70% of particles 3 – 10 microns in size. MERV-8 filters are a commonly used filter that capture larger particles like dust, pollen, and pet dander, but do not effectively capture smaller particles or sufficiently protect public health. A MERV-13-rated filter captures approximately 90% of particles 3 – 10 microns in size and is effective at improving indoor air quality by reducing dust, pollen, mold, and smoke from wildfires. For comparison, a standalone High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) purifier captures almost 100% of particles 3 – 10 microns in size.

The District proposes entering into a one-year grant agreement with the Buellton Union School District to reimburse the Oak Valley Elementary School for the cost of the biannual replacement with 70 MERV-13 rated air filters in the HVAC systems and annual routine preventive maintenance, not to exceed \$20,000.

Air Quality Education Program – Santa Ynez Valley Children's Museum (202 Dairyland Road)

The second project is to create an interactive, educational air quality exhibit that can be incorporated into the outdoor Santa Ynez Valley Children's Museum located in Buellton, which is currently under development and scheduled to open in 2026. The Museum is being built in partnership with the City of Buellton and is located adjacent to the Buellton Library and River View Park. The Museum's mission is to provide educational, open-ended play, in an outdoor setting for children in the Buellton community and beyond.

This Clean Air Fund project will include a Call for Project Proposals to design and create an interactive, educational outdoor exhibit that engages young minds on the importance of clean air. The District proposes to enter into a one-time grant agreement with a contractor (to be determined) to implement this project, not to exceed \$40,000.

A summary of the two project costs are provided in Table 2 below. If either project is not fully implemented or a balance of funds remains after project implementation, the District proposes redistribution of funds to the other project, with the total expenditure for all projects not to exceed \$60,000.

Table 2. Clean Air Fund for Buellton: Not to Exceed (NTE) Proposed Project Costs

Project Name and Location	Project Description	Proposed Project Cost
Clean Air Centers Program: Buellton Union School District: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oak Valley Elementary School• Oak Valley CommUnify Head Start Preschool• United Boys and Girls Club Santa Barbara County - Buellton Unit	One-year agreement to maintain 38 HVAC systems, replace MERV-13 rated air filters, and be available as a Clean Air Center during wildfire season.	NTE \$20,000
Air Quality Education Program: Santa Ynez Valley Children's Museum (Buellton)	Interactive, educational outdoor air quality exhibit.	NTE \$40,000
	Total Grant Amount	\$60,000

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Your Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget on June 26, 2025. That budget includes funding for Clean Air Fund projects. All labor for administration of the Clean Air Fund Program is also included in the District's proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget. That budget includes implementation funds from the Community Air Protection Program to reduce air pollution emissions and exposures in neighborhoods most impacted by air pollution. There are no fiscal impacts to the proposed budget.

The District plans to include additional Clean Air Fund projects in its proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget and will bring those project proposals to the Board for approval at a future Board meeting.