



# **Avenal Community Meeting**

November 9, 2021

# Outline

- Purpose of today's meeting
- Interagency working group
- Observations
- Actions taken
- Next steps
- Supplemental Environmental Projects
- District presentation
- Questions

# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Share our efforts in response to ongoing odor concerns with the community
- Coordinate with the community on reporting odor concerns
- Learn more from community about what else we can be doing to help solve odor problem

# What Have We Been Doing?

- In September 2020, CARB and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District conducted joint inspection of landfill
- In October 2020, CARB conducted mobile source inspections
- In October 2020, CARB staff went door to door in Avenal to listen to concerns of community
- In December 2020, CARB formed an interagency workgroup



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# Interagency Working Group

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  - CARB, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, CalRecycle, Kings County Local Enforcement Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, and City of Avenal

# Interagency Working Group (cont.)

- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
  - State agency that works on air quality issues across the state
  - Our job is to protect public from harmful effects of pollution and make sure people have access to clean air

# Interagency Working Group (cont.)

- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District)
  - Local agency that has authority over regulation of stationary sources of air contaminants
  - Receives and responds to air quality concerns, such as odors



# Interagency Working Group (cont.)

- CalRecycle
  - State Department that oversees local programs for solid waste, recycling, and disposal facilities
  - Certifies, evaluates, and provides support through training and guidance to Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agencies
- Kings County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)
  - Acts as the Local Enforcement Agency for Kings County and is responsible for solid waste facility permitting, inspections, and enforcement

# Interagency Working Group (cont.)

- State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board)
  - State agency that serves to protect water quality
- City of Avenal
  - Responsible for ensuring that city services run smoothly and efficiently
  - Owner of the landfill site, leased to Waste Connections Inc.

# Interagency Working Group (cont.)

- The working group meets monthly
  - Looked at history of odors reported
  - Created a list of 11 facilities that were potential sources of the odors
  - Mapped each location with distance to nearest home

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# Observations

Yellow Marker: City of Avenal

Marker 1: Avenal Landfill

Marker 5: Wastewater Plant

Marker 6: Mid Valley Recycling Yard

Marker 7: Kochergen's Composting Farm

Marker 11: EZ Trip Travel Center

Marker 3: Avenal State Prison  
(Chicken farm no longer in production)

\*Oil and gas pipeline (along Hwy 33)



# Observations (cont.)

- **Mid Valley Recycling Center**
  - Strong trash odors and debris observed leaving property boundary
- **Avenal Landfill**
  - Strong chemical/petroleum odors detected



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# Actions Taken

- Working group discussed our observations
  - Possible causes of odor in vicinity of landfill: treated petroleum contaminated soil, equipment used at landfill, solid waste trucks entering landfill, or naturally occurring landfill gases mixed with decomposing solid waste
- District reached out to landfill manager to discuss concerns of detectable odors
  - Landfill manager agreed to keep the soil dry and bury it quicker upon delivery



# Actions Taken (cont.)

- CARB conducted mobile source inspections
  - June 2021 – Two citations issued
    - One Off-Road Engine citation issued to landfill for no Equipment Identification Number
    - One Emission Control Label citation issued to a Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle for a missing or faded label

# Actions Taken (cont.)

- CARB conducted odor inspections on August 24-25, 2021
  - Petroleum odors were detected near and at the landfill

# Actions Taken (cont.)

- On 8/25/2021, CARB used Methane Mobile Monitoring platform to scan large areas for methane emissions
- Inspectors must verify emissions using other instruments





# Actions Taken (cont.)

- CARB and District conducted joint inspection of landfill on August 25, 2021
- Exceedance of methane detected in surface around 6 of 20 wells, resulting in Notice of Violation issued by District
- District returned to landfill on September 9, 2021 to verify compliance





# Actions Taken (cont.)

- Inspectors examined petroleum contaminated soils and no odors or methane were detected



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# Next Steps

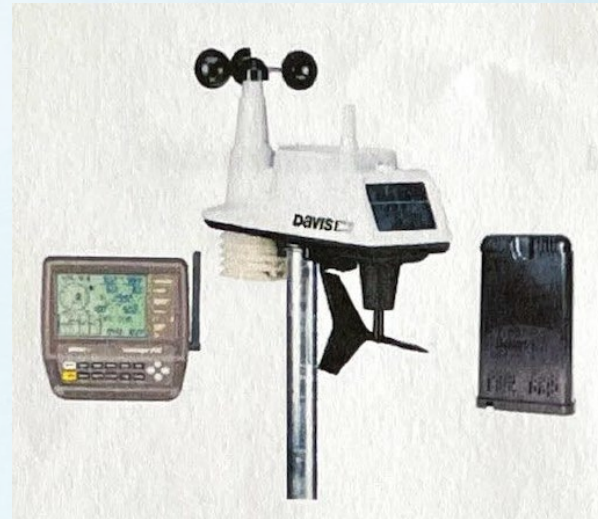
- More frequent unannounced inspections of the landfill and nearby area





# Next Steps (cont.)

- Install and monitor weather stations
  - Records temperature, wind speed, wind direction





# Next Steps (cont.)

- Report back to community on a regular basis
  - Provide updates at community-led meetings
  - CARB hosted community meetings

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# Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

- Examples of projects that have been funded
  - Urban greening projects (Fresno Trees)
  - Air filtration in schools and homes
  - Asthma healthcare & community air monitoring studies
- For more information, please contact our SEP team at [sep@arb.ca.gov](mailto:sep@arb.ca.gov) or (916) 229-0320



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# Complaint Response

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
Avenal Community Meeting  
November 9, 2021

# Complaint Response

- District operates a robust complaint response program
- Complaints are addressed promptly and given the highest level priority for District field staff
- Inspectors are on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Vehicles equipped with GPS and complaints assigned based on how close they are
- District provides a bilingual (English & Spanish) telephone complaint line
  - Utilize multilingual translation services to ensure all communities within the Valley are served
- Complaints can be filed by telephone, online, or mobile app



# Complaint Response Cont'd

- Inspectors maintain active communication with the reporting party to ensure that their concerns are addressed
  - Contact before conducting investigation to gather information
  - Discussing the results of the investigation afterward
- Factors relating to response time:
  - Distance of closest field staff
  - Number of complaints that are being responded to at one time (limitations on nights and weekends)
  - Whether the issue is ongoing at the time of reporting

# Nuisance Complaints

- Subject to District Rule 4102 – Nuisance, and California Health and Safety Code Section 41700
- Nuisance is defined as:
  - ...discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other materials which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such person or the public or which cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property
- Public nuisance requires District staff to confirm 5 complaints from different individuals from separate households within a 24 hour period

# Complaint Contact Information

- Complaints can be filed in the following ways:
  - Telephone: (800) 870-1037 (English and Spanish languages)
  - Online: <https://ww2.valleyair.org/file-a-complaint>
    - Available in English, Spanish, and Hmong
  - Mobile App (Valley Air app, <https://valleyair.org/app/>)
    - Available for Apple and Android devices
    - Available in English and Spanish languages



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# Questions?

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**Thank you for your participation!**