

San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure

The Central California Asthma Collaborative here-by states its complete support for Item 19-12-2 San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure, often known as the FARMER Program.

Agriculture is critical to the economy of the San Joaquin Valley and the food it grows support the nutrition needs of hundreds of thousands of people both nationwide and around the world. However, air emissions from agricultural diesel internal combustion engines produce both; elemental black carbon-both a form of directly emitted PM 2.5 and a short lived climate pollutant-and; oxides of nitrogen (NOx)-a precursor to both PM 2.5 and ozone.

Farmers have continued to adopt cleaner alternatives to diesel engine powered equipment through programs like Carl Moyer and DERA however, those programs are focused primarily on mobile sources and/or extremely large engines, often leaving the hundreds of smaller tractors and other equipment without any kind of incentive funding or support.

The San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure is the answer to that problem. This new program specifically focuses incentive funding and support to farmers and their equipment which has been left out of existing programs. This measure provides the resources farmers need to upgrade or completely replace older high pollution equipment with new high tier or electric alternatives.

Additionally, this funding will also provide at least a portion of much needed incentive funding for diesel emission reductions mandated by the 2019 SJV PM 2.5 State Implementation Plan.

Last but most importantly, both of these pollutants also have significant health impacts that are felt the greatest in low income and communities of color. The San Joaquin Valley has one of the highest rates of childhood asthma in California and these pollutants are significant asthma triggers, so reducing them is critical to improving the health of these children.

CCAC requests a yes vote for this program and for CARB to recommend Governor Newsome include full funding for this program in his upcoming state budget.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter,



Kevin Hamilton, RRT,ACS

CEO Central California Asthma Collaborative

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