



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE

Public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities. The Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

San Joaquin Valley Locomotive Idle Reduction Project Face Sheet

What is the San Joaquin Valley Locomotive Idle Reduction Project?

The San Joaquin Valley Locomotive Idle Reduction Project is a joint effort of the EPA, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), and the Union Pacific Railroad (UP). Through this project, these partners will install anti-idling technology on ten switcher locomotives in the San Joaquin Valley.

Why is this project important?

Several hundred switcher locomotives operate every day in each of the states along the West Coast, moving commodities into and out of ports, factories and retail outlets in California, Washington and Oregon. When locomotives wait for clearance or train orders, or between work assignments, their diesel engines are often left running (idling) to protect the engines from damage due to cold temperatures, to provide heating or cooling for the operator cab, and to provide power for other systems. Idling generates unnecessary diesel emissions and raises overall transportation costs by increasing fuel consumption.

What public health issues are associated with diesel exhaust?

Emissions from diesel engines contribute to unhealthy levels of fine particles and ozone (or "smog") as well as air toxics. Fine particles

have been associated with an increased risk of premature death, hospital admissions for heart and lung disease, increased respiratory symptoms and other adverse health effects. Long-term exposure to diesel exhaust may pose a lung cancer hazard to humans.

What are the estimated environmental benefits of this project?

This project is expected to result in the following benefits:

- 1.53 tons of NOx emissions reduced per year
- 0.04 tons of PM emissions reduced per year

How is this project funded?

EPA Region 9 is providing \$75,000 in funds to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District. In addition, each of the railroads has agreed to contribute \$37,500 in funding and equipment.

What is the Collaborative?

The West Coast Collaborative is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. Partners come from all over Western North America, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico. The Collaborative is part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

How can I find out more about the Collaborative?

For more information about the West Coast Collaborative, please contact Peter Murchie (murchie.peter@epa.gov, 503-326-6554), or visit our website at www.westcoastcollaborative.org.