

AGENDA
Agriculture Sector Workgroup

May 9, 2005, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. PDT

Call-in Details:

1-866-299-3188 passcode: 415-947-4143#

This call will highlight current resources and programs for agriculture sector projects, and provide a general update on the Collaborative.

2:00 Welcome, Review Agenda (5 minutes)

2:05 General update on the Collaborative (15 minutes)

Michelle Roos and Peter Murchie will provide a short summary of the Seattle Public Workshop, and update on the project portfolio, an update on the 2006 Federal Budget, an update on EPA's RFIP, and a summary of the recent Interim Steering Committee Meeting. More information about the Workshop, including all of the presentations, can be found at: www.westcoastcollaborative.org/files/meetings/2005-03-21/index.htm.

2:20 General update on current funding opportunities (10 minutes)

EPA designed a Collaborative "Resources" page to provide quick links to current and on-going potential diesel emissions reductions funding sources:

<http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/resources.htm>. In addition, Ross and Associates has created a Collaborative "Calendar" to highlight upcoming conferences that may be of interest to Collaborative partners: <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/calendar.htm>.

Collaborative members should feel free to email Penny McDaniel (mcdaniel.penelope@epa.gov) grant or conference notices so we can keep the website up to date.

Current Funding Opportunities

•Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficient Improvement Grants, Guaranteed Loan and Direct Loan Program (applications are due 90 days after March 28, 2005, which is June 26, 2005)

USDA's Rural Development Program has \$22.8 million in competitive grant funds available for FY 2005 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy improvements for agriculture producers and rural small businesses. Of the \$22.8 million, \$11.4 million will be set aside through August 31, 2005 for guaranteed loans. In order to be eligible for grant funds, the agricultural producer or rural small business must demonstrate financial need. The grant request must not exceed 25 percent of the eligible project costs. For more information, go to:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/2005NOFA/nofa05navigate.htm>

•2005 USDA Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education (SARE) Grants Program (applications for the Research and Education Proposals are due June 6, 2005; Professional Development Grants are due November 15, 2005; Farmer/Rancher due December 12, 2005; and Professional + Producer due December 12, 2005).

SARE grants are used to increase knowledge about sustainable agricultural practices and to help farmers and ranchers adopt those practices. The Western SARE program administers grants in several categories (i.e., Research and

Education (R&E) grants, Farmer/Rancher (FRG) grants, Professional + Producer (APP) grants, and Professional Development Program (PDP) grants) that help it achieve those aims. Each grant operates on an annual cycle and is selected through a competitive process.

Applicants for these grants, also known as Chapter 1 or R&E, typically are scientists affiliated with universities or nonprofit organizations or Ag agencies that support agriculture. Grants range in size from \$20,000 to \$200,000 or more. The grants usually run for at least three years. An interdisciplinary approach is encouraged and projects must involve producers as participants or consultants. For more information, go to: <http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/>

2:30 •Carl Moyer Program Guideline Modifications – Update and Q&A (15 minutes)

Edie Chang from CARB will be available to answer any questions about the status of the Carl Moyer Program Guidelines modification as they relate to agriculture. By way background, the Carl Moyer Program is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board (ARB). Funds are distributed through local air districts. Incentives, in the form of grants for private companies or public agencies operating heavy-duty engines in California, will cover an incremental portion of the cost of cleaner on-road and nonroad, marine and locomotive engines, and stationary agricultural pump engines, as well as forklifts, airport ground support equipment, and auxiliary power units.

Specifically, the Carl Moyer Program guidelines for agriculture applications currently provide funding for repowering engines used in irrigation pumps and mobile agricultural equipment (e.g., tractors). Recent legislative changes to the program now allow funding for other agricultural projects, such as stationary equipment and non-engine sources. In addition, local air districts may use the extra \$2 motor vehicle registration fee for the new Agricultural Assistance Program (AAP), which may be used to fund projects for previously unregulated agricultural sources of air pollution for a minimum of 3 years from the adoption of an applicable rule or until the compliance date whichever is later. Please note that this provision is specific to agricultural sources as defined in Health and Safety Code section 39011.5. No other category is eligible for funding of non-surplus emission reductions.

More information about the proposed Carl Moyer Program guidelines, go to:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/moyer.htm> and
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/issues-carl-moyer-program-workshop-april-and-may-2005.doc>

2:45 Overview of Current Project(s) / Special Speaker(s) (15 minutes)

•Allen Desault from Sustainable Conservation will give a brief overview of the status of the "Biomethane Conversion to Vehicle Fuel" project, and will be available to answer any questions. By way of background, this project launches a nine stage program to evaluate and assess the technical, market, and cost possibilities for biomethane substitution for vehicle fuel.

3:00 Adjourn