



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE
Public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

West Coast Collaborative **Agriculture Workgroup**

September 19, 2005 Teleconference Meeting Summary

The Agriculture Workgroup met by teleconference on September 19, 2005. This was a regularly scheduled meeting to highlight grants and conferences, update partners on Collaborative activities and discuss federal budget news.

****Hold the date request:** We are tentatively planning on meeting as a group **face to face Tuesday November 29th in Modesto CA (from 10am to 2pm)**. We will be working to develop an agenda and put together logistics information in the near future.

Sector Relevant Grants and Conferences

EPA reported on several grant opportunities currently open and relevant to the Agriculture sector. The West Coast Collaborative continues to track funding opportunities and conferences on the website www.westcoastcollaborative.org under the “Resources” and “Calendar” sections.

Incentives for Purchasing Lower-Emission Heavy-Duty Engines from the Carl Moyer Program (Due Date September 30, 2005 2PM).

New vehicles and engines must achieve a 30 percent reduction, and repowered vehicles and retrofits must achieve a 15% reduction of NOx emissions compared to current emission standards. Projects reducing PM and/or ROG are also eligible for funding provided they are cost-effective. Alternative fuel engines, such as those using compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane and electricity will be given preference for funding. However, cleaner diesel engines may be considered in the off-road category. http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/implementation/carl_moyer_program_2001.html

Environmental Quality Environmental Incentives Program (EQIP) - Arizona Applications received after Feb 15, 2005 will be considered part of FY06 EQIP offers both technical and financial support as well as incentives for implementation of land management policies focusing on conservation and air quality in Arizona. For more information, please visit <http://www.redlodgeclearinghouse.org/resources/>

Information on other states' EQIP programs will be distributed and posted on the West Coast Collaborative website.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

(Application deadline date: December 2005)

SARE is offering grants of up to \$10,000 per individual farmer and up to \$20,000 for groups of three or more farmers who practice on-site experimentation of sustainable agriculture practices. Grants are also offered to professionals and producers who work

co-operatively to implement sustainable agriculture processes. Professional Program development grants are available to professionals or universities who educate producers about sustainable agriculture. Depending on the type of project, grants of up to \$100,000 may be rewarded. For more information, please visit <http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/>

WCC Agriculture Grant Finalists

In August, EPA announced 16 finalists (out of 52 applicants) for \$1.4 million in grants to reduce diesel emissions on the West Coast. The EPA grants were combined with \$5.8 million in matching funds from West Coast Collaborative partners. Of the 16 projects, three West Coast Collaborative agriculture projects were selected. In addition, EPA headquarters has sponsored an agriculture project in Idaho that will be formally announced in the near future.

EPA reviewed the chosen projects in some detail to help workgroup participants understand efforts along the coast; if others are interested in any of the projects selected, there are likely good opportunities to replicate projects elsewhere. EPA will be conducting press events and outreach in each of the local areas to raise awareness, particularly trying to reach relevant trade news publications.

Cleaner Biodiesel for Farm Equipment Demonstration Project

While there is rapidly growing interest in biodiesel as an alternative fuel, there are concerns that biodiesel may increase NOx emissions. There are several NOx reducing additives for biodiesel and this project aims to test the additives in agriculture equipment.

Diesel Agricultural Pump Efficiency Project

The Center for Irrigation Technology proposed a pilot to retrofit agriculture pumps and then test to meet the pumps for efficiency standards. In addition to criteria pollutants, the project will also reduce greenhouse gases and reduce the cost to the farmer by burning less fuel and pumping less water. Outreach to farmers to recruit for the project will be through growers forums. There may be a list of agriculture group newsletters that would be appropriate to advertise in.

Eastern Washington Farmers Diesel Emissions Reduction Project

EnSave, in partnership with the Upper Columbia NCRD, is instituting a program designed to help farmers reduce run time across fields through no till practices. The grant will help a program looking to enroll 16,000 acres which could reduce fuel by up to 56,000 gallons. The program is likely to kick-off in the spring. EnSave is looking for additional opportunities to sponsor programs elsewhere on the West Coast – contact Craig Metz for more information.

Idaho Agriculture Project

An EPA headquarters grant is targeting retrofit technologies in the Treasure Valley agriculture area. The project will test on-road technologies in the agricultural equipment.

General Update on the Collaborative

There are three areas of budget updates which can be found on the website at <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/congress.htm>

Congressional Update

EPA Budget

In August, the President signed EPA's budget, which contained three funded programs relevant to voluntary diesel emissions reductions efforts:

- For the first time ever, there is a \$5 million appropriation for a National Clean Diesel Campaign. The West Coast Collaborative is the national pilot for this program. As part of this campaign, EPA expects to issue a \$3-3.5 million for a West Coast Collaborative RFIP to be announced in December 2005.
- In its fourth year, and the second year at this funding level, the Clean School Bus USA program was funded at \$7 million.
- Lastly, for the first year ever, EPA's community-based toxics program (CARE) was funded at \$3 million.

Energy Bill

In the federal Energy Bill signed in August 2005, there is a total of over \$400 million/year in authorizations for the next three years that could apply to voluntary diesel emissions reductions. These authorizations include: provisions for fleet modernization, retrofit programs, biofuels development and idle reduction. It is important to note that although these are all authorizations and not appropriations it is still an important success.

Transportation Bill

The Transportation Bill was also signed August and not only contained the identical Clean School Bus authorization as was in the Energy Bill (\$55 million/year for two years), but also contained an important amendment that addresses diesel mitigation within the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. CMAQ are funds set aside under the Highway Trust Fund Surface Transportation Program available for all types of congestion and air quality related initiatives, including non-road retrofits. Because these funds have not been regularly used for retrofits, the amendment:

- Requires EPA to develop and evaluate and list cost effective diesel retrofit technologies; and
- Directs state to prioritize CMAQ money for retrofits and cost effective strategies to reduce pollution and improve;
- Makes up to \$11 billion over 6 years available for these types of projects (EPA estimates that about \$3 million will be used for off-road retrofits)

For more detailed information on these bills and other links, visit:

<http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/congress.htm>

Conclusion

- Call participants suggested that coordination among West Coast Collaborative partners to define priorities will help in the appropriation process. In order to

define common needs and interests, there may be value in revisiting the project portfolio (see <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/projects.htm> for the most recent list of documented potential projects). In addition, participants suggested that a face-to-face meeting is needed to align efforts and to help better understand federal budget opportunities and the appropriations process. While the West Coast Collaborative is currently targeting an annual meeting in conjunction with Faster Freight Cleaner Air (FFCA) at the Long Beach Convention Center in late January 2006, the Agriculture Workgroup may not have as much interest in the connection with FFCA. Consequently it was suggested that there may be a good opportunity for a half day meeting in late November. EPA proposes meeting in Modesto CA on November 29th for a half day face to face meeting..

- West Coast Collaborative partners are encouraged to update contact information or sign-up on the website at <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/list-signup.asp>
- **The next Agriculture sector workgroup meeting will be November 29, 2005, 10:00am-2:00pm PDT at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau in Modesto CA. We will be soliciting agenda ideas and confirming location in the near future.**

Attendees

Contact Name	Contact Organization	Contact Phone	Contact e-mail
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