



## WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE

Public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

# WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

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*The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage significant federal funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in the most affected communities. The Collaborative seeks to significantly improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies. The Collaborative is one of the first pilot projects of the National Clean Diesel Campaign.*

## Collaborative Diesel Emissions Reductions: 2006 Request for Proposals Update

EPA received 70 applications totaling almost \$20 million in potential projects for the 2006 Collaborative Diesel Emissions Reductions Request for Proposals that closed March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Applicants aim to tap into the \$3 million available to support projects demonstrating innovative approaches to reducing diesel emissions in the focus areas of agriculture, locomotive and rail, construction and distributed generation, marine vessels and ports, trucking, and cleaner fuels.

The EPA diesel team is currently reviewing proposals. In summer 2006, the Agency anticipates awarding 10-15 grants or cooperative agreements that range from \$50,000 up to \$500,000.

Additional funding opportunities can be found on the Collaborative website at <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/grants.htm>.

## President's FY 2007 Budget Request

On February 6, 2006 the President announced his proposed FY07 budget. The President's budget included \$50 million for the Clean Diesel Initiative, also known as the National Clean Diesel Campaign. The West Coast Collaborative is an integral part of the national campaign, along with Clean School Bus USA and SmartWay. The \$50 million represents a \$35 million increase from last year. In the big picture, the EPA budget decreased by 4%, so the increase in diesel funding is especially notable. The diesel mitigation program is a highlight nationally and the West Coast Collaborative has been an important part of the momentum.

## Sector Workgroups

The agriculture, construction and distributed generation, marine vessels and ports and trucking sector workgroups convened through conference calls or in-person meetings in February and April to provide updates on Collaborative activities, highlight grants and conferences, and discuss federal budget news.

Additional details about the workgroups are available at: <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/workgroups.htm>.



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For more information about the West Coast Collaborative, visit us on the web at [www.westcoastcollaborative.org](http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org).

In the past, the West Coast Collaborative has received a large portion of the national funds—the current \$3 million RFP represents 60% of FY 06's national diesel retrofit funding. Success on the West Coast has fostered similar efforts in other regions—there are now five additional collaboratives around the country.

## Regional Events Featuring Diesel Reduction Efforts: Peninsula School District

The familiar smell of school bus diesel exhaust was noticeably absent as sunshine and blue skies greeted participants at a Clean School Bus USA award event for the Peninsula School District this March in Gig Harbor, Washington.

The \$300,000 in EPA funds, along with \$100,000 from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and a match of \$400,000 from the Peninsula School District, will replace eight 1981-1991 diesel school buses with new 2007 model year buses that meet the latest EPA diesel emissions standards. With the new buses, the District expects a 98 percent emissions reduction in particulate matter, a 97 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides and an 89 percent reduction in non-methane hydrocarbons.

“Getting these old, smoky diesel engines off the road is one of the best things we can do for our kids' health and the environment,” said Michael Bogert, EPA's Regional Administrator in Seattle. “We're proud to be able to assist the Peninsula School District with its already strong program to upgrade its school bus fleet.”

This year, EPA awarded 37 grants nationwide totaling \$7.5 million as part of the Clean School Bus USA program. The initiative encourages policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary school bus idling, install effective emission control systems on newer buses and replace the oldest buses with cleaner diesel or compressed natural gas powered buses. The grant recipients are contributing an additional \$13 million in matching funds and in-kind services.

To learn more about Clean School Bus USA, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/>.



Congressman Dicks and other program sponsors join some of the most important beneficiaries of the Clean School Bus program to celebrate the event.



The black puff of smoke from the old Peninsula School District diesel school bus (left) will be a distant memory when replaced with the new model (right) that meets the newest EPA diesel emission standards.

## Funding Forums

March 27 & March 29, 2006 | Seattle & Spokane, Washington

Starting in March in Seattle, the Collaborative has sponsored several Funding Forums in the Northwest to reach local decision-makers to raise awareness of diesel mitigation options and funding that's available. The forums focus on reaching municipalities, public fleet operators, and metropolitan planning organizations. The workshops aim to:

- » Raise awareness of the health and environmental impacts of diesel exhaust
- » Provide an overview of diesel emissions mitigation technologies and practices and funding opportunities
- » Identify specific potential projects for implementation

Stay tuned as there will be several other Funding Forums coming up on the West Coast!

Don't miss the Portland/Vancouver Diesel Retrofit Bootcamp™ and Funding Forum on May 8-9, 2006. To sign up or find out more, visit <http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/funding-forum-portland.htm>.



March 27, 2006 Seattle Funding Forum at the Puget Sound Regional Council.

## Faster Freight Cleaner Air 2006

This winter, more than 600 participants (including policymakers, fleet managers, port operators and state trucking associations) attended the Faster Freight Cleaner Air Conference in Long Beach, California, co-hosted by the West Coast Collaborative. Participants attended sessions on current and future issues surrounding freight movement in North America. The conference sought to work toward improved air quality and infrastructure through discussions focusing on innovative programs, policies and technologies within and across the marine, rail, off-road equipment, and trucking sectors.

At the conference, an exciting press event featured Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) President, James Spinosa, announcing a commitment to improving air quality at ports. The ILWU called for a one-fifth reduction in ship emissions by 2010 and committed to push carriers to adopt less-polluting technology on their ships. Mayor Villaraigosa supported the call for action in Los Angeles saying, "We are a bellwether city, a bellwether region, and we are going to show people we are going to grow this port but grow it greener."

To learn more about the conference, visit: <http://www.ffca2006.com/>

## Spotlight on Upcoming Funding Opportunities: SmartWay Transport Partnership Request For Applications

EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership is seeking to fund one or more cooperative agreements with eligible institutions to quantify the fuel savings and emissions reductions associated with an innovative technology package for heavy duty diesel trucks.

EPA established the SmartWay Transport Partnership as a voluntary, public-private partnership with the ground freight industry. The Partnership aims to set energy efficiency and emission reduction goals for truck and rail companies.

Applications are due May 15, 2006. Review the Request For Applications online at <http://www.epa.gov/oar/grants/06-07.pdf>. For more information on SmartWay, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>.



## Upcoming Conferences and Events

On May 7-10, the **Clean Cities Congress and Expo 2006: Fueling Clean Transportation** will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Senator John McCain of Arizona will provide the keynote speech. Sessions will provide overviews of fuels, vehicles and technologies; quantify the business case; explain fuel characteristics; offer regional assessments of fuel costs and supplies; and detail the life-cycle cost benefits of the light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles that are available for purchase today. Please visit <http://www.afvi.org/PhoenixCongress2006/> to find out more.

On May 18-19, the **Energy Strategies for Cities and Other Public Agencies Conference** will take place in San Francisco, California. This comprehensive conference will cover new rules and opportunities for communities and power suppliers. For more information, visit [http://lawseminars.com/section\\_details/06ESCCCA.htm](http://lawseminars.com/section_details/06ESCCCA.htm).

From May 22 – 24, **Managing Ship Emissions and Effluents: A North American Perspective** will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference will focus on the control and management of air emissions and liquid effluents from ships, emphasizing the environmental issues associated with North American shipping. The program will explore technological advances, regulatory issues, and cooperative international relationships affecting the shipping industry. Learn more at <http://www.awma.org/events/conf/CanShipEmissions/default.asp>.

June 6-8, **American Association of Port Authority: Harbors, Navigation, and Environment Seminar**: The HNE seminar will encompass a broad range of dredging and environmental issues of vital concern to port managers and other senior port executives. Panel discussion topics will include influencing federal overdepth dredging policy, utilizing green building and smart growth principles, working with stakeholder groups to advance port projects, developing effective environmental messages for port communities, understanding the latest dredging technologies and processes, measuring performance and conducting economic impact assessments, and highlighting international “green port” policies. For more information, visit <http://www.aapa-ports.org/programs/06hne.htm>.