



WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE
A public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

South Coast Air Quality Management District: School Bus Replacement Project

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) completion of its project to replace heavy-duty diesel school buses. This project was implemented using \$1,065,465 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant funding combined with nearly \$7,000,000 in leveraged funds from the SCAQMD and participating school districts.

What is the Project?

SCAQMD was awarded a DERA grant to replace 46 pre-1994 model year heavy-duty diesel school buses with model year 2010 (or newer) compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. The targeted fleet vehicles will be operated throughout California's South Coast Air Basin with an emphasis on Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Why is this project important?

The South Coast Air Basin does not currently meet federal, health-based ambient air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and has been classified as extreme non-attainment for the 1-hour and 8-hour ground level ozone standards. Diesel school buses routinely expose children to PM and other harmful pollutants. Exposure to diesel exhaust has been associated with decreased lung function and retarded lung development and can also exacerbate the symptoms of asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. This project will reduce children's exposure to diesel emissions as well as the negative health effects associated with exposure. Older diesel school buses can produce up to 100 times more PM emissions than cleaner alternatives that are currently available. Therefore, this project will generate significant health benefits in the communities where the buses operate.

What are the Environmental Benefits?

Over the lifetime of the project, the emissions of the 46 affected engines will be reduced by 3.5 fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) tons, 43.3 oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) tons, 2.4 hydrocarbon (HC) tons, 8.8 carbon monoxide (CO) tons, and 6,150 carbon dioxide (CO₂) tons.

How was this project funded?

The WCC provided \$1,065,465 in DERA grant funds to support this project. \$6,134,639 in leveraged funding was contributed by SCAQMD along with \$690,000 from the participating school districts.

Who are the Partners on this project?

The project was led by SCAQMD, the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, in partnership with participating school districts. SCAQMD received the DERA grant award through the WCC, and distributed the grant funds to the school district bus fleets. SCAQMD was also responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

What is the Collaborative?

The WCC 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, the Pacific Islands, Canada, and Mexico. The WCC is part of the U.S. EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC).
www.epa.gov/cleandiesel

How can I find out more Information?

For more information on this project, please contact John Mikulin at U.S. EPA (mikulin.john@epa.gov / 415-972-3956). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website: www.westcoastcollaborative.org