



NEWS

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Air District & Alameda County offer \$3.3 million to reduce port truck pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District approved up to \$1.9 million in funding to continue replacing older, higher-emitting trucks to reduce diesel particulate emissions at the Port of Oakland.

This action follows the commitment of \$1.43 million by Alameda County to the same project earlier this month.

“The Bay Area has been making great strides in reducing air pollution caused by trucks that serve the Port of Oakland,” said Nate Miley, Air District Board director and Alameda County supervisor. “We have already reduced toxic diesel pollution in West Oakland by 50 percent in less than two years, and this new money will help to keep port truckers on the job in clean trucks as we work towards further achieving our emissions reduction goals.”

“Our port truck grant program will help reduce the air pollution burden in West Oakland,” said Jack Broadbent, the Air District’s executive officer. “Truckers get help cleaning up their equipment before state deadlines and the community living near the port will have cleaner air to breathe.”

Since 2008, the Air District has received and awarded \$25.8 million to port drayage truck owners from a variety of sources, including state and federal funding. These monies were used to assist in the retrofit of 1,319 trucks and the replacement of 203 trucks, for a total of 1,552 truck upgrades. These grants have greatly reduced diesel pollution in West Oakland.

A recent independent study by the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Berkeley concluded that diesel soot pollution from drayage trucks has declined 50 percent at the Port of Oakland since 2009.

The new funding announced today should provide for upgrades of an additional 330 port trucks with model year 2005/06 engines registered in the Bay Area. Grants of \$10,000 will be available to eligible Bay Area truck owners toward the purchase of a truck with a cleaner 2007 model year engine or newer.

Diesel particulate matter, considered a toxic air contaminant by the state of California, is linked to major public health risks, including cancer. The residential neighborhood near the Port of Oakland has been identified by the Air District as a community that has a cancer health risk that is three times higher than any other in the Bay Area.

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By January 1, 2014, state regulations mandate that all port trucks must have engines that meet 2007 engine emission standards or cleaner.

Funding for this new program comes from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air. TFCA dollars are provided through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicles registered within the San Francisco Bay Area, as authorized by the California State Legislature to reduce roadway emissions.

Please check our website at www.baaqmd.gov/goods for details on how to apply, or call the grant program information line at 415.749.4994.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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