



# NEWS

## For Immediate Release

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## **Air District issues \$18 million call for projects to reduce vehicle emissions**

Grant opportunities available under three programs

**San Francisco, CA** - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today announced that it will accept applications under three grant programs to help reduce motor vehicle emissions, the largest source of air pollution in the Bay Area.

These grants are directed toward public agencies and owners of heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

"The Air District's grant programs fund proven emission-reduction projects that protect public health and improve air quality within our communities," said Jack P. Broadbent, Executive Officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. "These programs reduce exposure to harmful pollutants, such as particulate matter, especially in highly impacted neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area."

The **Transportation Fund for Clean Air Regional Fund**, provides grants for a range of projects, including the purchase or lease of new clean air vehicles, such as school buses and transit buses; repowers and retrofits of existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles; shuttle and feeder bus service to train stations; ridesharing programs; arterial management improvements; smart growth projects; and transit information projects. Up to \$12 million dollars in funds are to be allocated for TFCA Regional Fund Projects.

TFCA Regional Fund grant awards are offered on a competitive basis, and applications are **due by 5:00 PM on Monday, June 30, 2008**. Public agencies are eligible for all project types; non-public entities can apply for certain vehicle projects only. Criteria used in the determination of grant awards include the cost-effectiveness of the proposed projects, benefits to communities that are most impacted by motor vehicle emissions, and promotion of alternative transportation modes.

Funding to retrofit, repower, or replace port/drayage trucks that operate in the Bay Area is available from a new **Goods Movement Program**, a partnership between the Air District, the state Air Resources Board, and the Port of Oakland. Over the next four years, the Air Resources Board will be allocating \$140 million in California Goods Movement Bond funding to reduce air pollutant emissions from goods movement activities. The Air District and Port of Oakland may also provide additional financial incentives to owners of freight movement equipment to upgrade to cleaner technologies. Up to \$6 million will be available for port trucks in this initial application period. Applications are **tentatively due by 5:00 PM on Monday, June 30, 2008**, but this date may be subject to change.

The third program is the **Bicycle Facility Program**, which provides funding to reduce motor vehicle emissions through the implementation of new bicycle facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area. This program provides a total of \$600,000 in funding for bicycle projects through a streamlined process, and grant awards are made on a first-come first-served basis. Air District staff will begin evaluating applications on **June 16, 2008**.

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Air-quality grant projects directed at transportation have many benefits. They reduce air pollution and decrease emissions of air toxics such as benzene and diesel exhaust that impact health in our local communities. They conserve energy and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They improve water quality by decreasing contaminated runoff from roadways. They also improve transportation options and reduce traffic congestion. Last year, the total lifetime emission reductions from TFCA funded projects alone was 823 tons.

Further information, including application guidance and application forms for all three programs, is available in the Grants & Incentives section of the District website at [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov). Information about the TFCA Regional Fund is available at [www.baaqmd.gov/tfcaregional](http://www.baaqmd.gov/tfcaregional); information about the Goods Movement Program is available at [www.baaqmd.gov/pln/grants\\_and\\_incentives/gm/index.htm](http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/grants_and_incentives/gm/index.htm); and information about the Bicycle Facility Program is available at [www.baaqmd.gov/pln/grants\\_and\\_incentives/bfp/index.htm](http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/grants_and_incentives/bfp/index.htm). Applications may also be obtained by phoning (415) 749-4994 or e-mailing [grants@baaqmd.gov](mailto:grants@baaqmd.gov).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health and the environment. For more information, visit [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov).

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