



NEWS

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Air District approves additional \$4.5 Million for Vehicle Buy Back Program

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors has authorized \$4.5 million to fund the extension of the Vehicle Buyback Program for Bay Area residents that trade in their older, higher polluting vehicles.

“Pollution from automobiles is responsible for more than half of the air pollution in the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “The Vehicle Buy Back program is an investment in cleaner air and an effective way to encourage Bay Area residents to retire older vehicles that emit significantly more pollution.”

The additional \$4.5 million allocated to the Vehicle Buy Back Program will enable the Air District to provide \$1,000 to 3,750 Bay Area residents to retire their older, higher polluting vehicles. Since 1996, the Vehicle Buy Back Program has scrapped over 47,700 cars and light duty trucks. In April, the Air District Board voted to increase the fee paid to from \$650 to \$1000, and changed the eligibility year from 1987 to 1989 and older. As a result, the program has experienced a 95 percent increase in monthly retirement rates.

For each vehicle that is scrapped, an estimated average of 150 pounds of air pollutants are prevented from being emitted into the air. Among the air pollutants reduced by the scrapping program are fine particulates and ozone precursors—the main ingredients in smog. These pollutants contribute to respiratory diseases and increased mortality rates.

The public can get additional information about the Vehicle Buy Back program by calling 1-888-690-CASH (690-2274) or visiting www.baaqmd.gov/vbb.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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