



NEWS

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Air District concludes Retrofit Program at the Port of Oakland

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today the successful conclusion of the Port Truck Retrofit Program at the Port of Oakland.

“Diesel particulate filters will eliminate up to 85 percent of toxic particulate emissions from Port trucks,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District, “It provides an immediate health benefit to the West Oakland community by reducing health risks and ensures safer working conditions for hundreds of truck drivers.”

The Air District leveraged \$5 million in District funds into a \$22 million total program supported by the California Air Resources Board, the Port of Oakland and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has done a terrific job reaching out to port truckers and mobilizing staff to get the available monies into the hands of those that need it,” said ARB Chairman Mary D. Nichols. “Speeding the replacement or retrofit of dirty diesel trucks saves lives and protects those who live and work near the port.”

The program provided funding to quickly reduce health risks to the West Oakland community from heavy truck activity at this major transportation hub. Approximately 800 trucks are in the process of being awarded funds to install particulate filters and 170 cleaner replacement trucks will be purchased after November.

According to statewide regulation, after January 1, 2010, many older trucks without particulate filters will be prohibited from entering the Port.

The Air District is currently issuing the last grant contracts available under the program and is notifying program applicants that did not receive funding. The Air District continues to operate its port outreach center to advise drivers on compliance with the state regulation and on other private sources of funding that may be available to qualifying drivers.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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