



NEWS

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Air District offers \$1 million in grants to reduce port truck pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District approved \$1.04 million in funding to replace older, higher-emitting trucks to reduce diesel particulate emissions at the Port of Oakland.

Grants will be available through the Air District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air Regional Fund, which is funded by a Department of Motor Vehicles surcharge on vehicles registered in the Bay Area. The Board of Directors selected Cascade Sierra Solutions to assist the Air District in implementing this program.

"Our port truck grant programs create a 'win-win' solution for West Oakland and the port trucking community," said Damian Breen, the Air District's director of strategic incentives. "Truckers get help in modernizing their equipment before state deadlines and the local neighborhood will see reductions in toxic diesel pollution."

This latest round of funding should provide for upgrades of 104 port trucks with model year 2004 engines registered in the Bay Area. The grant funding will provide \$10,000 to these eligible Bay Area truck owners toward the purchase of a truck with a cleaner 2007 model year engine. Under the program, owners would also be able to trade their old 2004 trucks in for their current worth.

Please check our website at www.baaqmd.gov/goods for details on how to apply.

The first compliance deadline specified in the state port drayage truck regulation went into effect January 1, 2010. By the second compliance deadline, January 1, 2012, all trucks with model year 2004 engines must install a Level 3 retrofit device. By January 1, 2014, all trucks must have engines that meet 2007 engine emission standards or cleaner.

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. This program has reduced diesel particulate matter emissions in West Oakland by approximately 44 tons.

Diesel particulate matter, considered a toxic air contaminant by the state of California, is linked with major public health risks, including cancer. The residential area near the Port of Oakland has been identified by the Air District as a community that is highly impacted by diesel exhaust.

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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