



NEWS

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Air District awards \$121,000 for zero-emission equipment at San Jose Airport

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$121,000 to Southwest Airlines Co. to fund three electric aircraft ground support tows/tugs that will operate at the San Jose Airport.

This is the first Air District grant given to purchase zero-emission equipment at a major Bay Area airport. Ground support tow/tug equipment is used to service aircraft between flights, to help move aircraft within the terminal area, and facilitate loading operations for cargo and passengers. Southwest Airlines Co. applied to the Air District to replace three, 20-year-old, diesel-powered aircraft tow/tug vehicles with electric, zero-emission equivalents.

“The Air District supports Southwest Airlines efforts toward cleaner engines which will reduce diesel pollution and improve air quality in the local community,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Replacing diesel engines with clean, electric-powered engines will help reduce air pollution around the Southwest terminal which is good for surrounding neighborhoods and crews on the ground at the San Jose Airport.”

This project is being funded through the Carl Moyer Program, a partnership between the California Air Resources Board and the local air districts throughout the state, to reduce air pollution emissions from local heavy and medium duty engines.

The program provides grants to public and private entities to reduce emissions from existing heavy-duty engines by either replacing or retrofitting them. Eligible heavy-duty diesel engine applications include on-road trucks and buses, off-road equipment, marine vessels, locomotives, stationary agricultural pump engines and forklifts. Grant funding is currently available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications can be submitted at www.baaqmd.gov/moyer.

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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