



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2017

CONTACT: Tom Flannigan
415.215.7212

Air District, CARB & Bayview community work together to reduce air pollution from big trucks

Anti-idling effort in San Francisco's Bayview District strives to Spare the Air

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and partners unveiled the installation of anti-idling street signage in the area surrounding the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market, a major center for the regional distribution of produce located in the Bayview community, a neighborhood heavily impacted by truck exhaust and industrial pollution.

Twenty-two signs have been installed across the Bayview neighborhood. Representatives of the Air District, the California Air Resources Board, the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market, and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, along with neighborhood residents, marked the occasion as the next step in a longstanding campaign to reduce air quality impacts from truck exhaust in the neighborhood.

"Idling trucks are a menace to clean, healthy air," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "When trucks idle, they cause unnecessary air pollution costing the drivers money on added fuel expense and spewing noxious fumes into the neighborhoods where they idle."

Idling diesel engines create toxic air pollution, contribute to global warming and waste fuel. Diesel exhaust was declared a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board in 1998. It is harmful to respiratory health, particularly in children and the elderly. Multiple studies connect diesel air pollution to asthma, premature death, lung cancer and other health conditions.

The state's anti-idling regulation, adopted in 2004, generally prohibits idling for more than five minutes. It applies to heavy-duty vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 10,000 lbs. or more. Enforced locally by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, fines range from \$300-\$1000 per day and owners can now be responsible for citations issued to drivers of their vehicles.

"Our diesel idling regulation is an important element in our strategy to significantly reduce toxic diesel emissions and exposure in California," said CARB Executive Officer Richard W. Corey. "These 'No-Idling' signs serve as a reminder that the requirements benefit truck owners and the public. That is because the program reduces fuel consumption and saves money while cleaning up the air throughout the state, particularly in the most heavily impacted disadvantaged communities."

Bayview Hunters Point is a historically industrial area with a mix of residential areas located next to the Port of San Francisco and alongside two major freeways. It is also where the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market is located.

“Idling wastes fuel and pollutes the air,” said Michael Janis, General Manager of the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market. “It is our hope that through this awareness campaign we can make a positive difference to the businesses operating at the Market and to our community.”

Greenaction and members from the community worked together with agencies and local businesses to initiate the awareness campaign.

“We had to do something to stop this unnecessary pollution,” said Marie Harrison, Community Organizer with Greenaction. “We are delighted that the signs are finally going up in our community which has suffered from pollution for far too long.”

The California Air Resources Board oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health based air quality standards.

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.

#