



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 7, 2019
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Air District funds \$6 million in air pollution reduction grants

Funding for electric school buses, cleaner locomotive, Caltrain electrification and other projects

SAN FRANCISCO –The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today the Board of Directors has voted to approve funding for several key grant programs that will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases in the Bay Area.

The Air District administers several incentive programs which fund projects sponsored by public agencies and private companies to reduce air pollution, toxic air contaminants and greenhouse gases from cars, trucks, marine vessels, locomotives, and diesel powered agricultural and construction equipment. The Air District also funds trip reduction projects, including shuttles and ridesharing, bicycle paths and parking, and public education.

“The Air District targets grant funding in communities throughout the Bay Area to reduce harmful air pollution and protect public health,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Grant money for clean engine projects can help improve air quality and serve as an example for how clean engines can make an enormous difference in the communities where they are deployed.”

Funding for these grant projects come from three state-wide sources including: 1) The Carl Moyer Program, a partnership with the California Air Resources Board to reduce heavy duty air pollution from diesel, and 2) the Mobile Source Incentive Fund, which uses a \$2 Bay Area vehicle registration surcharge to fund air pollution reduction programs, and 3) the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Included among the projects authorized by the board today are:

Electric school buses

For many years, the Air District has provided funding to school districts to reduce the impacts of toxic diesel air pollution on children by offering school districts grants to retrofit or replace older diesel buses, switch buses to cleaner natural gas fuel and replace CNG tanks on school buses. With advances in battery technology, new air pollution-free electric powered school buses are anticipated

to begin serving several Bay Area schools beginning in 2019. The Air District has awarded millions to electric school buses and charging infrastructure projects over the past year.

Napa Valley Wine Train locomotive

Many locomotives are powered by older, highly polluting diesel engines that lack advanced pollution controls. Upgrading these locomotives to current emission standards can cut pollution significantly and improve air quality in communities along the rail line.

Caltrain electrification

In 2015, the Air District made a commitment to award \$20 million towards the Caltrain electrification project over a five-year period. Allocations to date include \$13 million in 2016, \$3 million in 2017, \$3 million in 2018, and \$1 million in 2019. The current \$1 million allocation represents the final installment and completion of the Air District's \$20 million-dollar commitment. Caltrain expects to begin operating electric trains by 2022.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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