

REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

Public Transit Bus Fleet Rule and Emission Standards for New Urban Buses

Pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(d), the Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that new sections 1956.1, 1956.2, 1956.3, and 1956.4, and the amendments to sections 1956.8 and 1965, title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the documents incorporated by reference therein, become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The new sections and amendments in title 13, CCR, provide for the implementation of a public transit bus fleet rule, applicable to operators of urban bus fleets in California, and for the implementation of more stringent emission standards, applicable to manufacturers of urban bus engines produced for sale in California. These integrated regulatory components, known as the urban bus regulation, are designed to achieve near-term and long-term emission benefits from both in-use urban buses and from new urban buses. To assess transit agencies' effectiveness in meeting fleet rule requirements and to assist them with compliance, the regulation requires transit agencies to report specific information to the ARB on an annual basis. The regulatory deadline for the first reporting requirement is January 31, 2001, by which time each California transit agency operating urban buses must notify the ARB of its chosen compliance path, its fleet's composition, and its current fleet average standard for emissions of oxides of nitrogen. Each transit agency's first report is necessary for determining which fleet rule requirements are applicable to that transit agency and for establishing a baseline for evaluating its progress in meeting the requirements.

The January 31, 2001, reporting deadline has been a regulatory provision since the regulation was first proposed on December 10, 1999; transit agencies are actively working to fulfill the January 31, 2001, reporting obligation and some have already submitted the initial report or a portion of the report. An early effective date will facilitate submittal of the transit agencies' required reports and the ARB's ability to assist transit agencies with regulatory compliance.

The ARB has engaged in activities to make the transit bus industry aware of the regulation's requirements and reporting deadlines, and will continue with ongoing outreach activities. Since transit agencies are already aware of the January 31, 2001, reporting requirement and are in the process of complying with it, they will not be disadvantaged by the requested early effective date.

Date: _____

Leslie Krinsk
Senior Staff Counsel