

Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Request for Information

Issue Date: September 19, 2024
Response Date: October 18, 2024
To: Off-Road Diesel Fleets and All Interested Parties
From: Mobile Source Regulatory Development Branch, California Air Resources Board
Subject: 2022 State Implementation Plan Strategy Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program Development

Introduction and Overview

Through this Request for Information (RFI), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is requesting input from all interested parties for the development of the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program. The primary goal of the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program would be to create a non-monetary incentive to encourage off-road fleets to go above and beyond existing regulatory fleet rule compliance and adopt advanced technology equipment with a strong emphasis on zero-emission off-road technologies. For this non-monetary incentive program, the CARB staff would develop the program parameters and contracting entities, policymakers, and state and local governments could then incorporate the program in contract award considerations. The program could also be considered by local air districts or other lead agencies as part of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation strategy.

Background

The *2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan* (SIP) included an array of proposed measures to reduce emissions from nitrous oxides and diesel particulate matter, otherwise known as smog. These measures are needed for the state to meet the federal ambient air quality standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. One of the many proposed measures is the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program.

Proposed Action

As currently envisioned, CARB staff would develop criteria for the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program. For example, fleets might need to demonstrate a certain fraction of their equipment is zero-emissions and/or powered with the cleanest

available engine in order to achieve a certain level of recognition within the program. The levels of certification could be spelled out in standardized language provided by CARB recognizing zero-emission technology in an off-road fleet. For example, bronze, silver, and gold are commonly recognized awards and could be associated, for the purpose of this program, as awarded for 30%, 50%, and 70% or more zero-emission within a participating off-road fleet. Within the current off-road fleet reporting system, DOORS, CARB has identified more than 400 of the over 15,000 fleets that already report 30% or more of their fleet horsepower as zero-emission.

Contracting entities, policymakers, and state and local governments could then point to the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program in contract award considerations and/or scoring (for example, a fleet achieving a certain level of recognition within the program might receive extra consideration when bidding on a contract). The inclusion of program parameters within contracting criteria would encourage off-road fleets submitting bids for competitive contracts to demonstrate participation in the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program and achieve specific program certification levels. While participation in the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program would be voluntary for fleets, the program could offer value for fleets to participate by providing access to jobs/contracts, public awareness, and marketing opportunities.

The Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program could not only promote future zero-emission adoption but also recognize those fleets that have taken early action.

RFI Questions

Through this RFI, CARB invites all interested parties to comment on the development of a Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program as specified in the [2022 SIP](#).

Responders do not need to address every question. Please identify the question(s) you are responding to by the **question number** when submitting your comments.

CARB requests responses by **October 18, 2024**. Please submit responses and comments via CARB's public docket web page, <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/public-comments/public-comment-request-information-development-clean-road-recognition-program>.

Currently, Off-Road Fleets are subject to the [In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets Regulation](#). This regulation incorporates tiered phase-out, fleet average, and Best Available Control Technology conditions and includes the potential for penalties for non-compliance. The Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program is a non-monetary voluntary incentive program with the potential to create market, sustainability, and social value for participating fleets. In order to create the best chance for developing a well-received and enthusiastically adopted Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program, we are seeking your feedback.

There are eight RFI questions. You may respond to as many or as few of the questions as you find appropriate.

1. Do you have experience with another recognition program and if so, what did you like and/or what did you think could be improved, if anything?
2. What information should be required to be included in a program participation application?
3. What sort of recordkeeping or reporting requirements would be appropriate for fleets that are awarded recognition?
4. What methods should be employed to insure participant credibility?
5. Would lead CEQA agencies utilize this program as a possible mitigation strategy? Is there something we can add to improve the likelihood that the program is utilized as a CEQA mitigation measure?
6. Should certification levels be scaled over time as zero-emission equipment becomes more readily available? For example, should it be harder in year 2035 to get "gold certification" versus in year 2028?
7. Is there a different program design from what CARB is proposing that you would like to provide?
8. Are there additional comments or feedback you would like staff to consider as they work to develop the Clean Off-Road Fleet Recognition Program?

Thank you for your time and consideration of this RFI. Your expertise and input are valued. If you have questions about this RFI or how to submit your comments, please email the Clean Off-Road Recognition Program team at doors@arb.ca.gov.

RFI Disclaimer

CARB will not be responding to submitted comments. Responders are advised not to include any confidential or proprietary information in response to this RFI as they may be disclosed or be subject to the California Public Records Act.