



Terry Tamminen  
Agency Secretary

# Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

DATE February 10, 2004 Mail-Out No. MSC 04-01  
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss proposed revisions to the Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines. The public workshop will be held at the time and location shown below:

DATE: March 12, 2004  
TIME 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
LOCATION Cal/EPA Headquarters Building  
Sierra Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

The purpose of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program is to reduce California school children's exposure to toxic diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions and to smog-forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions. Begun in 2000 with the Board's approval of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines, the program has provided \$66 million in General Fund grants to purchase new, lower-emitting school buses meeting the latest federal motor vehicle safety standards, and to retrofit in-use diesel school buses with exhaust emission control devices that significantly reduce toxic PM emissions.

In the spring of 2002, California voters passed Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act. This measure provides a total of \$50 million over two fiscal years (fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004) to ARB to fund air quality projects. Assembly Bill 425 (Statutes of 2002, Chapter 379) directs that 20 percent of the Proposition 40 funds available to ARB shall be allocated for the acquisition of "clean, safe, school buses for use in California's public schools that serve pupils in kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive." This appropriation from Proposition 40 funds provided \$4.92 million for the purchase of new, lower-emitting school buses statewide during the 2002-2003 fiscal year. At its

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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March 27, 2003, public meeting, the Board approved regional funding allocations for the 2002-2003 fiscal year Proposition 40 funds for new school bus purchases and approved updated program criteria for the expenditure of those funds.

For the 2003-2004 fiscal year, ARB has \$4.6 million available for new school bus purchases statewide. At the public workshop on March 12, 2004, the staff will present proposed regional funding allocations and proposed updated program criteria to reflect new engine emission standards for 2004 and later model year heavy-duty engines, and will solicit the public's input on the proposed revisions. The existing Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines may be accessed at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/schoolbus/schoolbus.htm>.

This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have special accommodation or language needs, please contact Ms. Krista Fregoso, Staff, Planning and Regulatory Development Section, at (916) 445-5035 or via e-mail at [kfregoso@arb.ca.gov](mailto:kfregoso@arb.ca.gov), as soon as possible. Teletypewriter/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf/Speech-to Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay. For further information about the public workshop in general, please contact Ms. Fregoso at the phone number and e-mail address indicated above.

To subscribe to the ARB's list serve for the Lower-Emission School Bus Program, please enroll at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/schoolbus/schoolbus.htm>. By signing up for this list serve, you will receive an e-mail notification when new information has been posted to the Lower-Emission School Bus Program website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert H. Cross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert H. Cross, Chief  
Mobile Source Control Division