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Agency Secretary

# Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

February 25, 2004

Mail-Out No. MSC 04-03

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXHAUST EMISSION STANDARDS AND TEST PROCEDURES – 1985 AND SUBSEQUENT MODEL HEAVY-DUTY URBAN BUS ENGINES AND VEHICLES, THE FLEET RULE FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES, AND THE ZERO-EMISSION BUS (ZEB) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

**Background:** In February 2000, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) adopted the fleet rule for public transit agencies and amended the exhaust emission standards for heavy-duty urban bus engines and vehicles (Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 1956.1-1956.4, as amended on October 24, 2002). This regulation is designed to achieve significant reductions in particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions through the implementation of a fleet rule and emission standards for new transit bus engines. This regulation also required transit agencies to meet specified criteria to demonstrate and purchase ZEBs.

Proposed modifications to these regulations would apply to all California transit agencies, including transit agencies that do not own any urban buses and currently are not subject to the fleet rule for transit agencies. Thus far, the ARB has held public workshops regarding the proposed changes in El Monte on April 3, 2003, and December 2, 2003, and in Sacramento on December 3, 2003. Comments from those workshops have been reviewed and, in some cases, incorporated into this proposal. Additional details, including draft regulations, will be made available on the bus website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/bus.htm>, one week prior to the following workshops.

*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

Workshop: At this time we are announcing additional workshops. The following dates and times have been scheduled to provide an overview of the revised draft regulations and receive public comments. Please note that the workshops may end earlier than scheduled if all issues have been discussed.

Date: Monday, March 29, 2004  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Cal EPA Building  
Sierra Hearing Room  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Sacramento workshop on Monday, March 29, will be webcast on the ARB website. For more information, go to: [http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/calendar/cal\\_wbcst.php](http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/calendar/cal_wbcst.php)

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2004  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Air Resources Board  
Auditorium, Annex 4  
9530 Telstar Avenue  
El Monte, California 91731

**Topics to be discussed at the workshop include the following proposals:**

**Urban Bus Engine Standards**

- ◆ 2007 and beyond Urban Bus Engine Standard. Staff is proposing to change the current 2007 urban bus standard to harmonize with the 2007 heavy-duty diesel truck standard.
- ◆ Engine Standards for Diesel Hybrid-Electric Buses (HEB). Staff is proposing an NOx standard for Diesel HEBs of 1.8 grams per brake horsepower-hour (g/bhp-hr) NOx emission standard, to be introduced during 2004-2006 model-years. The PM standard would be 0.01 g/bhp-hr. Staff is not proposing any changes to the interim certification standards for HEBs.

### **Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies**

- ◆ Changes previously proposed for this rulemaking will be moved to another date except for the following:
- ◆ Sections 1956.2 and 1956.4 will be modified to require any transit agency that purchases a diesel HEB to make up the difference between the certified engine standard and the adopted standard of 0.5 g/bhp-hr NO<sub>x</sub> for 2004-2006 model year diesel urban bus engines. Transit agencies will have to submit reports to ARB documenting their required NO<sub>x</sub> reductions.

### **ZEB Regulation**

Staff is proposing that the ZEB demonstration requirements be modified to reflect the state of development of zero-emission fuel cell bus technology. Currently, the demonstration projects are behind schedule and will not attain the required number of buses. Staff is proposing that the timelines for the current ZEB demonstration be extended by 30 months and that the requirement for the number of buses be modified to count buses that are re-equipped with upgraded fuel cells. An upgrade must consist of a significant reduction in cost or improvement in performance.

### **Related Regulation Development**

This proposed rulemaking does not affect buses used in shuttle services provided by or for community colleges, universities, and tourism separate from public transit operations. ARB is, however, proposing a public agency fleets measure that would require these operators to reduce diesel PM emissions from their buses and other heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

Staff encourages comments regarding this proposal and would appreciate receiving written comments by April 2, 2004. Timely submittal of comments allows staff time to address comments before the proposed regulation order is submitted to the Board for consideration in June 2004. Please send your comments to Ms. Kathleen Mead by email at [kmead@arb.ca.gov](mailto:kmead@arb.ca.gov) or by mail, Attention: Ms. Kathleen Mead, Air Resources Board, Mobile Source Control Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812. Please send a copy of your comments to Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele by email at [nsteele@arb.ca.gov](mailto:nsteele@arb.ca.gov) or by mail, Attention: Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele, Air Resources Board, 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4, El Monte, California 91731.

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If you have special accommodation or language needs or have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact Ms. Neidy Pinuelas, Branch Secretary, Heavy-Duty Diesel In-Use Strategies at (626) 350-6454, or send an email to [npinuela@arb.ca.gov](mailto:npinuela@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 Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cross', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert H. Cross, Chief  
Mobile Source Control Division