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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 15, 2005

Mailout #MSC 05-10

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING CLEAN ON-ROAD SCHOOL BUSES
DRAFT REGULATORY CONCEPTS

Background: On April 20, 2001, the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted Rule 1195: Clean On-Road School Buses, which applies to public and private school bus fleet operators with 15 or more school buses. However, in April 2004, the United States Supreme Court ruled that certain aspects of several SCAQMD fleet rules, including Rule 1195, were federally preempted. The Air Resources Board (ARB) staff is now giving consideration to four of those fleet rules in an effort to identify ways of preserving the emissions reductions that would result from their implementation. This process will require a new public record that updates relevant information on the effectiveness and costs of Rule 1195, or any similar regulation the ARB may adopt, to achieve similar emission reductions.

Workshop: The ARB staff is holding a public workshop to solicit comments on concepts for a regulatory proposal based upon the requirements of Rule 1195. Briefly, the ARB staff is considering a regulatory proposal containing a menu of compliance options that include purchase requirements utilizing performance-based emissions levels and retrofit requirements for new and in-use school buses. Compliance with the regulatory requirements would be contingent on funding available to school districts and private school bus fleet operators. The ARB staff will introduce these concepts for clean on-road school buses at the workshop and provide the opportunity to school bus fleets and other interested parties to comment on the proposed ideas. Preliminary regulatory concepts are attached. Draft regulatory language will be posted at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/scfleet/scfleet.htm> at least two weeks prior to the workshop. The Clean On-Road School Bus workshop will be held at the time and location shown below:

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2005
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: Air Resources Board
Auditorium, Annex 4
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California 91731

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

The ARB staff will hold three similar workshops for the other South Coast fleet rules under consideration at the same location per the following schedule:

Residential and Commercial Refuse Collection Vehicles Workshop

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Street Sweeper Workshop

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Transit Bus Workshop

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2005

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please note that you may be receiving additional notices for these other workshops. Staff is using separate mail-outs for the different workshops to ensure that stakeholders receive adequate and timely notice.

Comments: The staff encourages oral comments regarding the regulatory proposal at the workshop. If written comments are provided, we would appreciate receiving them by April 15, 2005. Timely submittal of comments allows staff time to address comments before the proposed regulation order is submitted to the Board for consideration in July 2005. Please send your comments to Ms. Krista Fregoso, Air Pollution Specialist, by email at kfregoso@arb.ca.gov or by mail attention to Ms. Krista Fregoso, ARB, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95814.

Please visit the website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/scfleet/scfleet.htm> for more information and to sign-up for the South Coast Fleet Rules List Serve. Subscribing to this list serve designates that you will receive email notices from the ARB regarding meetings and updates related to the ARB's regulatory development of the SCAQMD fleet rules under consideration.

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If you have special accommodation or language needs, or have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact Ms. Krista Fregoso, Planning and Regulatory Development Section, at (916) 445-5035 or kfregoso@arb.ca.gov .
TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1- for the California Relay Service.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachment