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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 15, 2005

Mail-Out #MSC 05-12

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 AND THE FLEET RULE FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES SPECIFIC TO AGENCIES OPERATING IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN

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. These regulations are 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. In February 2005, the Board approved amendments to this regulations, including additional requirements specific to transit fleet vehicles.

On June 16, 2000, the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted Rule 1192 - Clean On-Road Transit Buses. Last year in April, however, the United States Supreme Court found that several SCAQMD fleet rules, including Rule 1192, were federally preempted at least in part. ARB staff is now giving consideration to four of these 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 1192 or any similar regulation ARB may adopt to achieve similar emission reductions.

Workshop: ARB staff will hold a public workshop to discuss regulatory concepts for amendments. The following date and time has been scheduled to provide an overview and receive public comments.

Date: Thursday April 7, 2005
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 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

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

Solid Waste Collection Vehicle 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.

School Bus Workshop

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2005

Time: 9:30 a.m to 12:00 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.

Concepts for Proposed Amendments: Staff plans on discussing these and other ideas at the workshop. Further details are provided in Attachment 1.

Statewide Urban Buses

- Harmonize the urban bus engine exhaust emission standards with the California Heavy-Duty Truck standards beginning with the 2007 model year.

South Coast Urban Buses

- All public transit fleets operating in the South Coast Air Basin meet the requirements of the alternative fuel path, as specified in the current Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies, or;
- Adopt a more stringent fleet average requirement than the October 1, 2002, requirement for public transit fleets operating in the South Coast Air Basin.

South Coast Transit Fleet Vehicles

- Adopt more stringent fleet average standards for transit vehicles operating in the South Coast Air Basin than was adopted at the February 24, 2005, public hearing.

Draft regulatory language may be available up to two weeks prior to the workshop at our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/scfleet/scfleet.htm>

Comments: Staff encourages comments regarding this proposal and would appreciate receiving written comments 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 later this year. Please send your comments to Mr. David Salardino by email at dsalardi@arb.ca.gov or by mail, Attention: Mr. David Salardino, Air Resources Board, Mobile Source Control Division, 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4, El Monte, California 91731. Please send a copy of your comments to Dr. Nancy L.C. Steele by email at nsteele@arb.ca.gov or by mail to the same address.

In addition, if you would like to receive e-mail notices regarding meetings and updates related to ARB's adoption of the SCAQMD fleet rules please subscribe to ARB's list serve located at the following website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/scfleet.htm>.

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, 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,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachment