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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 30, 2005

Mailout #MSC 05-17

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING FUNDING ALLOCATION OF
\$25 MILLION FOR CLEANER, SAFER SCHOOL BUSES AND THE
LOWER-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM GUIDELINES UPDATE

Background: Governor Schwarzenegger has approved \$25 million to clean up California's school bus fleet by replacing or retrofitting older, higher-emitting buses. The Legislature directed that \$12.5 million of the funding is to be spent to replace pre-1977 school buses with new school buses that comply with the most recent passenger safety standards. Reduced emissions will also be considered in new bus selection. The remaining \$12.5 million is to be spent to retrofit in-use diesel school buses in order to protect children's health and reduce particulate matter (PM) emissions from those buses. Retrofit technologies employed must be verified by the Board (ARB or Board) with at least a level three verification, requiring at least an 85 percent reduction in PM. These funds will replace approximately 100 pre-1977 buses and retrofit approximately 1,000 in-use diesel school buses with exhaust aftertreatment devices.

In addition, Assembly Bill 923 (AB 923) provides a mechanism for local districts to institute an additional two dollar motor vehicle registration surcharge to fund a variety of clean air projects, including the purchase of new school buses. The school bus purchases must be "pursuant to the Lower-Emission School Bus Program adopted by the State Board." This surcharge provides up to \$55 million statewide to these local districts for clean air projects.

Workshop: The Legislature has directed ARB to provide an equitable geographic distribution of the appropriated \$25 million of school bus funds. Towards this end, the ARB will conduct a public meeting to educate stakeholders on possible changes in the allocation and distribution process for these funds and solicit comment. The meeting will seek to explain the current budget control language, as well as present and discuss pertinent issues regarding the expenditure of the new \$12.5 million funding to target the replacement of pre-1977 model year buses. Some of the issues to be discussed at the public meeting include: 1) population-based funding allocations versus school bus age-based funding allocations; 2) school district match funding requirements; 3) options for

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>.

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implementing the program (i.e., which entities will administer the program); 4) retrofit control options and technologies; and 5) requirements for use of AB 923 funds. Additionally, required updates to the Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines will be addressed. The public meeting will be held at the time and location shown below. A tentative agenda is attached.

Date: Friday, October 14, 2005
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium, Second Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

As a result of ARB's continuing effort to increase accessibility and public participation, the public workshop will also be broadcast on the Internet. By accessing the program website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/schoolbus/schoolbus.htm> interested parties will be able to monitor the meetings and submit comments or questions via e-mail.

Please visit the program website for additional information and to sign-up for the School Bus List Serve. Subscribing to this list serve designates that you will receive email notices from the ARB regarding meetings and updates related to the Lower-Emission School Bus Program.

If you have special accommodation or language needs, or have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact Ms. Cherie Rainforth, Planning and Regulatory Development Section, at (916) 323-2507 or crainfor@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

Attachment

Air Resources Board

Public Meeting Regarding Funding Allocation of \$25 Million for
Cleaner, Safer School Buses and the
Lower- Emission School Bus Program Guidelines Update
Friday, October 14, 2005
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Tentative Agenda

- 1) Air Resources Board Staff Presentation
 - Budget Control Language and Available Funding
 - Funding Allocation Options – population-based versus school bus age-based
 - School District Match Funding Requirement
 - AB 923 Program Fund Requirements
 - Program Implementation
 - Retrofit Control Options and Technologies
 - Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines Update
- 2) Presentations by Others
- 3) Open Discussion
- 4) Closing Remarks