



California Partnership for the  
San Joaquin Valley

May 15, 2009

Mary Nichols  
Chairman  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812

ORIGINAL: Board Clerk  
Copies: Executive Officer  
Chair

**RE: Support DERA Allocation Based on Prop 1B Criteria**

Dear Chairman Nichols:

We write you on behalf of the board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to seek a fair allocation of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funding. Specifically, we urge ARB to use the criteria developed for the Proposition 1B Lower Emission School Bus program for the allocation of the DERA funding. The Proposition 1B criteria has been fully vetted by the public and takes into account key factors, such as the average bus age in each region and the clean air attainment status. It seems appropriate that the \$1.7 million in DERA funding should be allocated in this same manner.

As you are aware, the San Joaquin Valley does not have a proportional share of the air quality problem in relation to other regions in the state. The Valley is uniquely challenged with 80% of the Nitrogen Oxides coming from mobile sources. Additionally, the Valley contains one of the oldest fleets of public school buses in the state, further contributing to the pervasive respiratory difficulties faced by Valley children. Over 20% of the state's population of older model year 1977-1986 school buses operate in the Valley, despite a much lower proportional population. A reduction of related emissions will move us along the critical path towards attainment in the Valley.

We look forward to working with you on establishing criteria that fully serves the purpose of the DERA program. Please feel free to contact Mike Dozier, lead executive for the Partnership's Secretariat, with any questions you may have at [mdozier@csufresno.edu](mailto:mdozier@csufresno.edu) or (559) 294-6027. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fritz Grupe, Deputy Chair

Ashley Swearengin, Deputy Chair

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