

July 10, 2007 01:30 PM  
202-289-1060

California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Subject: Adopt the clean construction and off-road equipment rule

Dear Air Resources Board members,

I strongly support the landmark off-road diesel reduction rule proposed by your staff on May 25th. This rule is a very important step toward protecting public health and meeting clean air standards throughout California. Without strong diesel cleanup rules, California will continue to lead the nation with the smoggiest, dirtiest air.

Although construction equipment is the second largest source of diesel particulate matter in the state, more than half the construction equipment used in California today has absolutely no pollution controls and can be used for 30 years or more. The new rule would reduce harmful diesel soot from off-road equipment covered by the rule by 75 percent. These pollution reductions are essential to help California meet federal clean air standards.

The new rule also would prevent 4,000 premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of respiratory hospital admissions between now and 2025. Although off-road industry groups complain that the cost of the rule is too high, these health benefits add up to \$18-26 billion dollars -- more than five times the estimated cost of the regulation over the same time period.

By adopting this important regulation, California can once again demonstrate its national leadership in protecting the public from harmful diesel pollution. Once again, I urge the board to adopt the new regulation, as proposed by staff.

Sincerely,

Sara Behmerwold