

# Greenwire

THE LEADER IN ENERGY &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY NEWS

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## 16. **AIR POLLUTION:** New Calif. board leader gets first test with diesel rules

(07/24/2007)

Less than a week after accepting the position, the newly appointed head of the California Air Resources Board faces a challenge to proposed requirements to reduce diesel emissions from construction equipment.

Mary Nichols, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's (R) pick to head the board, is getting the first test of her leadership as the construction industry attempts to weaken the proposed requirement to reduce nitrogen emissions from diesel engines by 32 percent no later than 2020.

Arguing that cleaner-burning diesels will not be available before 2014, the construction industry is lobbying for a later deadline to convert the estimated 180,000 off-road diesel vehicles operating in the state.

Nichols' appointment came in the wake of the controversial firing of former Board Chairman Robert Sawyer. Critics alleged Sawyer was fired due to his objection to administrative efforts to slow down the implementation of A.B. 32, which aims to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2002. Schwarzenegger said he was displeased with the board's performance under Sawyer ([Greenwire](#), July 5).

Board staff said that they have incorporated industry concerns into its plans, allowing longer deadlines for smaller business. "We've been in many, many meetings with the industry," said Gennet Pauwe, a spokeswoman for the board. "We're entertaining their ideas, but it's really up to the board to make a final determination" (Greg Lucas, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), July 23). -- EB

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