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Air Resources Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

December 27, 2005

Mail-Out #MSC 05-23

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE ZERO EMISSION BUS TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATIONS

The California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss the status of the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) technology and regulations. A previous workshop was held in Sacramento on October 27, 2005. The ZEB regulations can be found in title 13, California Code of Regulations, section 1956.3 (Currently in process to be moved to section 2023.3).

In February 2000, the Board confirmed its continued commitment towards reducing emissions from public transportation by establishing a fleet rule for transit agencies, more stringent emission standards for new urban bus engines and promoting advanced technologies by adopting ZEB demonstration and ZEB acquisition requirements. In addition, the Board directed staff to review ZEB technology and the feasibility of implementing the ZEB purchase provisions of the requirements. Staff is preparing a status update to be presented to the Board in March 2006.

The ZEB purchase requirement implementation date depends on the compliance path selected by transit agencies and is only applicable to larger transit agencies (those with more than 200 buses). For transit agencies on the diesel fuel path, a 15 percent aggregate total of all bus acquisitions from model years 2008 through 2015 must be ZEBs. For transit agencies on the alternative fuel path, the ZEB acquisition requirement starts with model year 2010 and runs through model year 2015. Transit agencies on the diesel path must submit a compliance plan by January 2007, while transit agencies on the alternative fuel path must submit a compliance plan by January 2009.

Transit agencies selected fuel cell powered buses as the technology most likely to cost-effectively meet desired performance characteristics while meeting environmental objectives. Information available as the ZEB regulation was being developed indicated that the application of fuel cells in transit buses would lead light-duty vehicle applications. Buses are better suited to handle the relatively larger size and weight of pre-production fuel cell and fuel storage systems. As it turns out, fuel cell and vehicle manufacturers instead have focused their resources on developing light duty fuel cell applications.

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

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Staff has been monitoring the progress of ZEB technology and determined that while promising – the technology has not progressed at the anticipated pace. As a result the Board revised the implementation dates for the required demonstrations during a June 2004 hearing. Staff is continuing to review and monitor the progress of the demonstrations, and is soliciting your input to guide the next steps leading towards commercial development of ZEBs. The following workshop has been scheduled to provide an overview and to receive public comment.

DATE: January 27, 2006
TIME: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
TOPIC: Zero Emission Bus Status
PLACE: Air Resources Board
Auditorium
9530 Telstar Avenue, Annex 4
El Monte, California 91731

Workshop presentations and handouts will be available at the workshop and on the Public Transit Agencies website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/bus.htm> . The transit bus regulations are available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/frmlregdocuments.htm> . If you would like to receive notification by email of updates to the Public Transit Agencies website, please sign up at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/ms-mailings.htm> .

If you have a disability-related accommodation need, please go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/ada/ada.htm> for assistance or contact the ADA Coordinator at (916) 323-4916. If you are a person who needs assistance in a language other than English, please go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/as/eo/languageaccess.htm> or contact the Bilingual Coordinator, at (916) 324-5049.

We welcome your participation. If you cannot attend and would like to provide comments, or if you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact Mr. Gerhard Achtelik, Manager, at (916) 323-8973 or by email at gachteli@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: See next page.

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cc: Ms. Analisa Bevan, Chief
Sustainable Transportation Technologies Branch

Ms. Annette Hebert, Chief
Heavy Duty Diesel In Use Strategies Branch

Mr. Jack Kitowski, Chief
On Road Controls Branch

Mr. Gerhard Achtelik, Manager
Hydrogen Infrastructure Section