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Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
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Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 17, 2007

Dear City and County Officials:

In 2005, the California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) approved a regulation to reduce toxic diesel particulate matter (diesel PM) emissions from diesel-fueled public agency and utility fleet vehicles beginning in 2007. Diesel PM, the tiny soot particles from diesel engines, was identified as a toxic air contaminant in 1998. Exposure to diesel PM is a significant health hazard, particularly to children whose lungs are still developing, and the elderly who may have other serious health problems. Each year in California, diesel PM contributes to 3,700 premature deaths, 2,200 hospital admissions, 100,000 asthma attacks and respiratory symptoms, 8,500 cases of chronic bronchitis, 620,000 lost workdays and 3.6 million minor restricted activity days. Reducing exposure to diesel PM is one of ARB's highest priorities.

The Fleet Rule for Public Agencies and Utilities regulation is particularly effective because it reduces diesel PM concentrations in the heart of residential communities where municipal and utility vehicles frequently conduct business. But while the regulation brings significant clean-air benefits, it also brings cost increases to municipal fleet administrators, who already may be on very tight fiscal budgets. Depending on the age and type of vehicle, implementing the regulation can average from \$3,000 to more than \$40,000 per vehicle. During the development of the regulation, one of the major issues of concern was how a municipal fleet administrator would pay for the cost of the regulation. The Board shared this concern, and approved modifications to the regulation with this in mind, including extending the initial compliance deadline for most fleets, and allowing low-population counties additional time to budget and plan for the cost of compliance.

The first implementation deadline of the regulation is December 31, 2007, when twenty percent of a municipality's vehicles between the model years 1960 through 2002 must be in compliance with the regulation. As both elected county officials and Board members, we understand compliance by many municipal fleet administrators will be challenging. Because of this, we encourage county and city governments to support the efforts of their municipal fleet administrator in complying with this regulation.

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

Dear City and County Officials

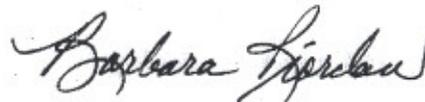
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For Californians to realize the health benefits from this regulation, municipal and utility fleets must meet the challenge and reduce diesel PM in accordance with this regulation. The Board is counting on your support of your municipal and utility fleet administrators, which will aid in successful implementation of this regulation.

Sincerely,



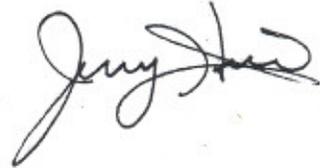
Ron Roberts, Supervisor
San Diego County
Board Member



Barbara Riordan, Former Supervisor
San Bernardino County
Board Member



Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge
City of Riverside
Board Member



Jerry Hill, Supervisor
San Mateo County
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