Diesel Clean-Up Measures Save Money, Protect Public Health and Help Economic Recovery by Creating Green Jobs

California’s Budget Must Not Roll Back CARB’s Diesel Truck and Off-Road Equipment Clean-Up Rules

Over the past two years, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has adopted two landmark measures to curb diesel pollution from trucks, buses and off-road equipment, protecting the health of residents and workers throughout the state and contributing to a sustainable economy in California. Now these rules, adopted after a fair and extensive public process, are at risk in current budget negotiations.

The on- and off-road diesel rules will have a profound impact on air quality and public health, and support economic recovery by:

- Saving an estimated 13,400 lives and cutting consumption of diesel fuel by 5 billion gallons – enabling California to meet federal air quality standards, which ensures the state’s ability to keep critical federal funding.
- Assisting with economic stimulus efforts in California by spurring investment and business growth for companies specializing in clean and efficient transport.
- Creating thousands of good green jobs to manufacture, install and maintain diesel retrofits.
- Providing health benefits to Californians of at least $48 billion due to reduced illnesses, hospital admissions, deaths, and lost work days from on-road truck pollution and $26 billion in health benefits from reduced illness and death due to off-road equipment pollution. These health benefits amount to over nine times the direct costs of the rules.

California Needs Strong Public Health Protections and a Strong Economy

It is a false choice to suggest that Californians have to choose between public health protections and a strong economy. California’s diesel rules target a deadly and pervasive pollutant that threatens public health and welfare and results in billions of dollars in health costs due to lost lives and health care costs. Beyond its danger as a well known human carcinogen, the particulate matter (PM) in diesel exhaust contains smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) and more than 40 toxic chemicals. Numerous studies have documented a range of adverse health impacts from long-term exposure to diesel pollution, including increased risk for respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, including asthma and heart attacks; stunted lung growth in children, adverse birth outcomes, more frequent emergency room visits, and higher general mortality rates.

Both smog and particulates exacerbate asthma symptoms and trigger asthma attacks, with just trucks and buses impacting up to 110,000 Californians with asthma annually. Children, people who live near highways,
ports, and other freight centers, and residents of the San Joaquin Valley suffer approximately twice the asthma rate as the general population.

California is home to 5 of the 10 smoggiest cities in the United States according to the American Lung Association’s State of the Air Report – and residents are paying the price with their health. CARB’s diesel clean-up programs bring relief to the air quality and public health crisis impacting communities throughout the state.

**Diesel Clean-Up Rules Save Lives and Money**
The on- and off-road diesel rules deliver thousands of tons of reductions in harmful oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions from diesel engines in California. The health benefits greatly outweigh the cost of the rules: for every dollar invested in cleaning up diesel truck and bus emissions, approximately 10 dollars in health benefits result.

As Californian’s face continually rising health care costs, increased hospital visits and illness from air pollution, and the prospect of job loss in a weak economy, now is the time to invest in diesel clean-up. The investment in cleaning diesel pollution will create green jobs and reduce health costs in a down economy.

**Diesel Clean-Up Rules Provide Economic Stimulus and Create Good, Green Jobs**
California’s diesel clean-up measures require investment in new technology. These investments will help California’s economy, not only by reducing health costs throughout the state, but by creating green tech jobs in manufacturing, sales, installation of diesel clean-up technologies. The California Economic Development Department predicts 3,700 new jobs dealing with diesel engines by 2016. The global market for emission control technologies is expected to continue to grow in the coming decade, with industry estimates projecting market growth from $16 billion in 2005 to $36 billion by 2020. The Manufacturers of Emissions Controls Association estimate that their member companies represent 65,000 jobs.

Cleaire, a California company, estimates that for every 100,000 retrofits there will be 5,000 job years required to do the work. This means 1 job-year for every 20 retrofits. Cleaire employs about 120 people through their suppliers, in-house staffs, and dealers to run their business. Since their volumes are lower, efficiencies are also a bit lower than the national average; they estimate 1 job created for every 13 retrofits that are produced, sold, and installed.

“I think this is quite a positive impact.” – Brad Edgar, Cleaire

**Unprecedented Amount of Public Dollars Available to Assist Business Owners**
Californians support cleaning up diesel pollution not only in concept but through heavy investments into public funding programs to assist owners of diesel trucks, buses and off-road equipment to retrofit and replace vehicles and equipment to meet state requirements. CARB estimates that over $1 billion is available to help companies clean up their diesel trucks. These funds are made available through programs such as Proposition 1B and the Carl Moyer Program, as well as a new loan program being established with funds from AB118 – all taxpayer funded programs. Nearly $500 million or more is available each year through incentive funds and loan programs to clean up all diesel engines throughout California.

For more information on the air quality, health and economic benefits of these important rules, contact:
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association of California, bhgen@alac.org, 916-554-5864
Camille Kustin, Environmental Defense Fund, ckustin@edf.org, 916-492-4682
Diane Bailey, Natural Resources Defense Council, dbailey@nrdc.org, 415-875-6100
Don Anair, Union of Concerned Scientists, danair@uscusa.org, 510-809-1563