



Agenda Placement: Admin
Agenda Date: August 18, 2005
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Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board
FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer
CONTACT: Anthony Fournier, 961-8874
SUBJECT: Lower Emission School Bus Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve \$250,000 in funding allocation for the Lower Emission School Bus Replacement Program.

SUMMARY:

The resolution will earmark \$250,000 in funding allocation for the Lower Emission School Bus Program. The \$250,000 will come from Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) registration fees and will be used to replace pre-1987 school buses with new, lower emission school buses. This program allocation does not change the fiscal year 2005-2006 budget.

DISCUSSION:

On January 18, 2001 your board approved APCD participation and administration of the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Lower Emission School Bus Program for Santa Barbara County. This is a two-part program designed to replace and retrofit diesel powered school buses to reduce children's exposure to diesel emissions. The original program replaced 430 existing diesel powered school buses statewide with new lower-emission buses, and is in the

process of retrofitting 2,000 school buses statewide with filters to reduce particulate matter emissions. To date your Board has approved \$109,000 in grants to help replace 5 school buses and \$65,000 to retrofit 16 school buses under this program.

On December 16, 2004 your Board approved a \$2 increase in Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) registration fees from \$4 to \$6, as authorized by Assembly Bill 923, to be used towards clean air incentive programs. AB923 identified the funding of replacement school buses, pursuant to the guidelines developed for ARB's Lower Emission School Bus Program, as one of the programs that a district may implement with these funds.

On March 17, 2005 your board approved a Call For Proposals (CFP) document that mapped out implementation of ITG heavy-duty emission reduction grant programs. This CFP document included guidelines for a school bus replacement program. Currently there are no funds allocated to the replacement portion of the Lower Emission School Bus Program; therefore, we are recommending that your Board earmark \$250,000 in DMV registration fees so that we can proceed with replacing older, high-polluting diesel school buses with new, low-emission buses. We will continue to follow ARB Lower Emission School Bus Program guidelines when selecting future projects.

The \$250,000 allocation for this program will come from DMV registration fees and may be expended over several fiscal years. This new program does not change the District's fiscal year 2005/ 2006 budget amount for ITG.