

**Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District**

Agenda Date: October 17, 2013  
Agenda Placement: Regular  
Estimated Time: 10 minutes  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board  
  
FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer  
  
CONTACT: Jim Fredrickson, 961-8892  
  
SUBJECT: Internal Review of School Bus Diesel Particulate Filter Grants

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file a report on the District grant process for school bus diesel particulate filter retrofit projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

In order to keep your Board informed of the emission reduction grant agreements approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer, each District Board docket includes a standard Administrative item summarizing recent grant projects.

The August 2013 Board agenda identified several school bus retrofit grants issued for diesel particulate filter equipment, each in the amount of \$20,000. Board members requested further information on the costs and District funding for school bus retrofit projects. Staff has conducted an internal review and prepared a report to present to your Board. The results of the review are summarized below:

- Two types of filter retrofit systems are available: “passive” and “active”.
- School bus retrofit systems need to be “active” filter systems due to trip characteristics.
- Costs for active systems are significantly higher than costs for passive systems, and include additional hardware for filter regeneration.
- District retrofit grants cover filter costs, ancillary hardware, labor for installation, and sales tax.
- Our review found previous grant agreements (active systems) paid out by the District averaged about \$19,000.

- District grant process includes a review of vendor quote as part of the application submittal and review of vendor invoice prior to final grant payment.

#### CONCLUSION:

School bus retrofits are essential for helping school districts comply with the emission reduction requirements of the state Truck and Bus regulation. Active filter systems are necessary to effectively control diesel exhaust from school busses and substantial reductions of toxic pollutants are seen as a result. The cost breakdown for these active systems is reviewed by District staff prior to payment to the school districts. District grant funds alleviate the financial burden to school districts and internal review found that grant funds are being spent appropriately for school bus retrofit projects.