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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Douglas W. Allard, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Anthony Fournier, Air Quality Engineer (961-8874)

SUBJECT: Lower Emission School Bus Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the elimination of the March 31, 2004, deadline for allocating Lower Emission School Bus Retrofit Program funds.

DISCUSSION:

In October 2003, your board received a briefing and approved a modification to the Lower Emission School Bus Retrofit Program which provides state funding for the purchase and installation of particulate matter retrofit (PM) devices for school buses. The main points presented to the Board were: (1) this is a PM focused program, where our other grant programs have been more focused on oxides of nitrogen, (2) there is no cost-effectiveness limit set by the state for this program, (3) the only criterion is that the device selected be Air Resources Board (ARB) verified to provide for 25% or more in PM reductions, and (4) the program's funding deadline was extended by the state to March 31, 2004. The modification to the program approved by your Board in October was to consider the cost-effectiveness criteria for the Air Pollution Control Officer signature authority met as long as an ARB verified device was installed. This aligned the APCO signature approval process with the ARB's criterion for funding the retrofit devices.

Recently ARB's Executive Officer has approved the elimination of the March 31, 2004, deadline in order to allow more time for the completion of eligible projects. ARB now requests that each participating air district provide periodic (every 6 months) program status summaries until all funds are obligated and projects are completed.

Local schools and school bus operators in the county are aware of the program and we are currently working through the application process with 3 potential grantees. We have also received interest from several other school districts. The program currently has all of its original \$225,000 funding allocation which could pay for the purchase and installation of approximately 50-60 control devices on a first come, first served basis. We expect that this program will be completed in fiscal year 2004-2005.

The Board will be given reports at each hearing summarizing all grants for this program that were approved by the Control Officer since the prior hearing.