

Lower-Emission School Bus Program funds are now available for distribution to administering agencies, which include the California Energy Commission and local air quality agencies. These administering agencies will be mailing applications to school districts this spring. This \$50 million program to reduce harmful air emissions from the state's oldest, highest-polluting school buses was approved by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) on December 7, 2000. The Lower-Emission School Bus Guidelines, as approved by the ARB, are available to download; please see below. When the Board approved the guidelines, it directed staff to make the following revisions:

- 1) There will be an equal distribution of funds for alternative fuel and diesel technologies. The state funding distribution will be \$25 million dollars to alternative fuel projects and \$25 million dollars to diesel technology. The funding is partitioned to allow \$25 million for new alternative fuel buses and fueling facilities, and \$12.5 million for new, cleaner diesel buses. The program's remaining \$12.5 million will go toward installing filters on existing diesel buses to reduce particulate matter (PM) by at least 85 percent.
- 2) The state will fund the majority of the cost of the bus, while school districts will provide only 25 percent of the cost of a new bus, up to a maximum of \$25,000. For school districts in some of the state's neediest regions, the match funding is further reduced to only a 15 percent match, or \$15,000, to replace pre-1977 buses.

The program will replace about 350 of the oldest, high-polluting buses with new, cleaner diesel or alternative fuel buses, and will pay for filters to reduce emissions from 2,000 existing diesel buses. The program will also help defray the added cost of low-sulfur diesel fuel and will provide funds to help develop alternative fuel infrastructure, as needed.

Once again, we thank you for your interest and support of the Lower-Emission School Bus Program. We encourage your continued feedback and comments on this program. If you have any questions, please contact the On-Road Controls Branch, Mobile Source Control Division at (916) 323-6169.