WEST COAST COLLABORATIVE
A public-private partnership to reduce diesel emissions

The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities. The Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

DERA 2018: Electric School Bus Replacements in Southern California

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Cajon Valley Union School District's (CVUSD's) receipt of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program grant to replace Type C diesel school buses. This project will be implemented using $1,000,000 in DERA grant funding combined with $267,911 in cost-share funds from CVUSD, and $1,100,000 from the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

What is the project?

This project will replace five model year 2006 Type C diesel school buses with five model year 2019 zero tailpipe emission battery-electric buses (BEBs). The replaced diesel buses will be removed from service and permanently destroyed.

Why is this project important?

This project's primary objective is to improve the environmental health of children by partnering with CVUSD to replace legacy heavy-duty diesel school buses with zero emission buses. The project will eliminate school bus tailpipe emissions in communities disproportionately affected by diesel exhaust and poor air quality. Exposure to diesel exhaust has been associated with decreased lung function and retarded lung development and can also exacerbate the symptoms of asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. This project will reduce children's exposure to diesel emissions as well as the negative health effects associated with exposure.

What are the environmental benefits?

Over the remaining lifetime of the 5 affected engines, these upgrades are estimated to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 3.8 tons, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 0.3 tons, hydrocarbons (HC) by 0.5 tons, carbon monoxide (CO) by 1.9 tons, and carbon dioxide (CO_2) by 493 tons. Additionally, the reduction of PM2.5 emissions will also reduce black carbon (BC), which influences climate by directly absorbing light, reducing the reflectivity ("albedo") of snow and ice through deposition, and interacting with clouds. The project will also conserve over 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually through BEB technology.

Who are the partners on this project?

The project will be led by CVUSD, a California school district serving El Cajon and Rancho San Diego; in partnership with First Priority Green Fleet, San Diego Gas & Electric, BTC Power, Kisensum, Lion Electric Company, and EV Connect. CVUSD received the DERA grant award through the WCC, and will oversee project implementation. CARB will contribute funding for battery-electric buses via its Hybrid & Zero-Emission Truck & Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP), and CVUSD will contribute cost-share and administrative support for bus replacements. Other partners will contribute support for BEB charging and vehicle-to-grid infrastructure integration. CVUSD will be responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

What is the Collaborative?

The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, local and tribal government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. Partners come from all over Western North America, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the Pacific Islands, Canada and Mexico. The WCC is part of the US EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

How can I find out more information?

For more information on this project, please contact John Mikulin at US EPA (mikulin.john@epa.gov / 415-972-3956). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website. www.westcoastcollaborative.org