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Contact: Andy Weisser, 818.703.6444, aweisser@alac.org
Jim Arnold, 213.384.5864, x250, jarnold@alac.org
www.californialung.org

**Statement by Sonal Patel, MD
Board Member, American Lung Association in California
on the One Year Anniversary of the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program**

“Over one year ago, American Lung Association Board member Gwendolyn Young stood with hundreds of coalition partners and community members to celebrate the landmark Clean Trucks Program adopted by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the City Council of Los Angeles and its Board of Harbor Commissioners. The Clean Trucks Program has now been in effect for exactly one year, bringing tremendous environmental health benefits to southern California. The American Lung Association continues to stand with over 80 public health, environmental, and community organizations to recognize these achievements.

“In the past twelve months the Port of Los Angeles helped put over 5,000 clean trucks into service and banned 2,000 of the dirtiest, oldest trucks. This achievement puts the Ports ahead of schedule to meet their 2012 goal of 80 percent emissions reductions from port drayage.

“While there is a lot to celebrate today, the American Lung Association wants the focus to remain on long-term sustainability. Unfortunately, the benefits of cleaner trucks could be eroded by the American Trucking Association’s lawsuit to block critical pieces of the Clean Trucks Program. Not only do we need cleaner trucks, we also need trucking companies to take primary responsibility for upgrading and maintaining trucks. We do not want to see a clean truck today become a dirty truck in five years. The only way to guarantee the ports are not going to repeat problems of the past when the fleets again need to be replaced is to ensure that those in the capitalized industry pay the cost of buying and maintaining new trucks to meet current environmental standards.

“The American Lung Association supports the Clean Trucks Program because clean air should be a right for everyone. For too long southern California residents have paid with their health the costs of an inefficient port trucking system that results in excessive diesel pollution. The California Air Resources Board estimates that port truck pollution costs southern Californians between \$100 million and \$590 million annually, including lost lives and elevated cancer risk for over 2 million people.

“Thanks to the Clean Trucks Program, we have less pollution from port trucks. Now we just need to ensure that these trucks can operate in a system that can effectively maintain them.”

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