



www.coalitionforcleanair.org

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Lisa Warshaw, (213) 630-1192 x 103
Martin Schlageter, (323) 807-2505

Historic Clean Trucks Program reaches one-year mile marker

Los Angeles (October 1, 2009) – Today, one year after the landmark Clean Trucks Program (CTP) launched at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, thousands of the dirtiest diesel trucks are off the road, replaced by cleaner trucks. In just one year, the CTP has reduced emissions equivalent to the amount produced by 200,000 automobiles on Southern California’s highways. When the next ban of old trucks takes place on January 1, 2010, nearly all of the trucks serving the Ports will meet emissions standards of 2007 model year trucks.

“The Clean Trucks Program is a critical step in fixing the broken system that is port trucking, but with 90 percent of the fleet still reliant on diesel fuel, there is still more work to do to deploy the cleanest technologies,” said Martin Schlageter, campaign director at the Coalition for Clean Air (CCA). “The Ports’ modernization efforts are getting dilapidated diesel trucks off our highways and keeping harmful exhaust out of our lungs.”

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach generate massive amounts of diesel pollution, known to cause high rates of cancer, asthma, respiratory illnesses and premature deaths. Studies have shown that those who live in neighborhoods surrounding the Ports—an area commonly referred to as the “diesel death zone”—face greater health risks than those who live elsewhere in the region. In fact, the California Air Resources Board estimates that Southern Californians pay between \$100 million and \$590 million annually in health impact costs related to drayage trucking. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 84 percent of the cancer risk in our air comes from diesel pollution.

Looking forward, to ensure program sustainability companies must take responsibility for buying and maintaining new trucks that meet strong environmental standards. This should not fall on the shoulders of independent, low-wage drivers.

CCA proudly joins a broad base of member groups—including environmentalists, student organizations, faith-based groups, health advocates, port drivers and local residents—in supporting the Los Angeles Clean Trucks Program. We expect a continued commitment from the Ports, the freight industry and our elected leaders toward further fleet modernization, rapid development and deployment of the electric truck, reductions in global warming pollution, and the fulfillment of promises for more alternative-fuel trucks.

###

For more than 35 years, the nonprofit Coalition for Clean Air has been committed to restoring clean air to California. With offices in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Fresno, it is dedicated to strengthening the environmental movement by promoting broad-based community involvement, advocating responsible public policy and providing technical expertise.