

PORT AND GATEWAY

CITIES

TO REDUCE DIESEL EMISSIONS

LONG BEACH, Calif., July 15, 2002 – A group of 27 cities in southeast Los Angeles County and the Port of Long Beach have launched a multi-million-dollar pilot program to sharply curtail diesel emissions.

The Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the port have approved an agreement to implement \$4.7 million worth of projects aimed at reducing emissions from diesel engines on vehicles serving the port.

To fund the program, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners and the Council of Governments each agreed to utilize \$1 million grants provided by the California Air Resources Board. In addition, the port will provide \$1 million in matching funds, and the Council of Governments will provide \$1.7 million from a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant. .

The money will be used to fund qualified projects such as the modification or replacement of existing diesel-fueled equipment, including port-owned vehicles and tenant owned equipment. Among the technologies being considered are alternative fuel vehicles as well as after market technology modifications. A device similar to a catalytic converter could be installed on tenant-owned yard tractors to cut emissions by as much as 30 percent.

"This kind of partnership leverages resources to reduce emissions, clean the air and benefit the greater good of the entire region," said Long Beach City Councilman Frank A. Colonna, president of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors.

"As well as promoting trade, the Port of Long Beach has a responsibility as an environmental steward," Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke said. "We are doing everything we can to improve air quality."

Colonna and Steinke sa

y that some of the technology still needs to be proven in the workplace, so part of the pilot program will be monitoring maintenance and operational costs to study feasibility and practicality. Both expressed confidence that the program will contribute to a significant improvement in air quality.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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