The goal of the West Coast 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.

# Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: Tribal School Bus Retrofit Project

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians' completion of its project to retrofit heavy-duty diesel school buses. This project was implemented using \$78,000 in U.S. EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) grant funding combined with \$18,321 in tribal funds.

# What is the Project?

6 heavy-duty diesel school bus engines were retrofitted with verified Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) retrofit technologies. School buses were chosen from the Noli Indian High School bus fleet, which serves Native American populations in Riverside County, California.

#### Why is this project important?

Diesel school buses routinely expose children to soot (particulate matter) and other harmful pollutants. 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. In addition, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians will work to maximize the impact of this project by educating other tribes on the importance of using emissions retrofit technologies and partnering with them on similar efforts.

#### **What are the Environmental Benefits?**

Over the lifetime of the project, the emissions of the 6 affected engines will be reduced by 1.1 particulate matter (PM) tons, 2.3 hydrocarbon (HC) tons, and 16.7 carbon monoxide (CO) tons.

## How was this project funded?

The WCC provided \$78,000 in U.S. EPA DERA grant funds to support this project. In addition, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians contributed \$18.321 in tribal funds.

### Who are the Partners on this project?

The project was led by the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians in partnership with Noli Indian High School bus fleet. The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians received the U.S. EPA DERA grant award through the WCC, and distributed the grant funds to Noli Indian High School. The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians was also responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

#### What is the Collaborative?

The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local 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 California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Canada, and Mexico. The WCC is part of the U.S. EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC).

www.epa.gov/cleandiesel

# How can I find out more Information?

For more information on this project, please contact John Mikulin at U.S. EPA (<a href="mikulin.john@epa.gov">mikulin.john@epa.gov</a> / 415-972-3956). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website. <a href="https://www.westcoastcollaborative.org">www.westcoastcollaborative.org</a>