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

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

DERA 2015: Replacing Agriculture Tractors in the San Joaquin Valley, CA

Under the 2015 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Clean Diesel Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and West Coast Collaborative (WCC) have granted the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) $1.04 million to replace 78 old, polluting with new, cleaner off-road agriculture tractors or loaders.

What is the project?

The SJVAPCD will provide funding to assist farmers to replace 78 agriculture tractors or loaders that meet EPA's Tier 4 engine emission standards. The cleaner engines will greatly reduce the amount of pollution that was emitted by the older, less-efficient off-road equipment. These tractors or loaders will be owned by various famers and used throughout the San Joaquin Valley as part of regular daily agriculture operations.

Why is this project important?

The old tractors or loaders engines will be either Tier 0 (uncontrolled) or Tier 1 and will be replaced by Tier 4 emission standards. Each replacement tractor will be of similar type and horsepower rating as the old tractor. The old engines will be dismantled and permanently inoperable. The agriculture tractors for this project will operate 100 percent of the time on farms located within the District's jurisdiction. The San Joaquin Valley is one of the most productive agriculture regions and due to the unique topographical and meteorological conductions, is also one of the poorest air quality areas in the nation. Many of the farms operate old diesel agriculture tractors that are often 25 or more years old and do not have any emissions controls. This type of equipment is not regulated nor required to be replaced by cleaner engine tractors.

What are the environmental and health benefits?

This unregulated sector of agriculture farm equipment directly contributes to the overall health risks to the communities surrounding these farms. All eight counties in the District do not meet Federal health-based ambient air quality standards for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and have been classified as Extreme Non-Attainment for the 8-hour ozone standard. Exposure to diesel emission pollution causes multiple negative health impacts, such as premature mortality, non-fatal heart attacks, asthma and others effects. This tractor replacement project will reduce annual emissions of NOx by 17 tons, PM by 2.87 tons, hydrocarbons by 2.51 tons and carbon monoxide by 15.8 tons.

How was this project funded?

The WCC provided $1,040,268 million in DERA grant funds to the SJVAPCD to implement this project throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The SJVAPCD will identify participating farmers who will receive funding to cover approximately 45% of the purchase price of an eligible new Tier 4 tractor. The SJVAPCD and farmers will contribute over $5.6 million for this project.

What is the West Coast Collaborative?

The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, local and tribal governments, 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, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Canada, Mexico and the Pacific Island U.S. Territories. The Collaborative is part of the EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

How can I find out more information?

For more information about this project, please contact Trina Martynowicz at Martynowicz.Trina@epa.gov. For more information on the WCC, please visit our website www.westcoastcollaborative.org