

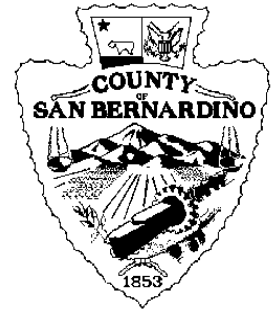
NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact
Scott Vanhorne, Communications Director
(909) 387-4833

Grants Aid County's Efforts to Reduce Harmful Emissions

SAN BERNARDINO – Grant funding accepted by the Board of Supervisors this week will help San Bernardino County reduce harmful diesel emissions from its heavy-duty vehicles by increasing the use of cleaner natural gas-powered trucks.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) will provide the County with \$200,000 to help purchase eight heavy equipment vehicles that run on natural gas. The Department of Public Works estimates the vehicles will cost about \$1.6 million with the grant funding. In addition, the SCAQMD will also provide the Department of Public Works with a \$50,000 grant to partially offset the cost of installing a compressed natural gas fueling station, which is expected to cost about \$100,000.

“The County of San Bernardino is committed to taking the actions necessary to improve our region’s air quality and protect the health of our residents, and grants like these are helping us make those needed changes faster and with less impacts on our bottom line,” said Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, who spearheaded the August 2007 launch of Green County San Bernardino – a multifaceted program aimed at reducing the County’s impacts on the environment. More information about the program can be found at www.GreenCountySB.com.

Funding for the two grants come from Assembly Bill 2766, which imposes a \$4 vehicle registration fee to support efforts to reduce vehicle pollution. The fee and grant program have been in place since 1990.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, idling diesel trucks emit about 144 grams of smog-forming nitrogen oxide and 8,224 grams of carbon dioxide every hour. In addition, the California Air Resources Board has identified diesel engine particulates as toxic air contaminants because of their potential to cause cancer, premature death, and other health problems.

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