

**For Immediate Release
Monday, March 22, 2004**

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Port of Oakland, MUNI Among Projects to Receive \$3.3 Million To Reduce Engine Emissions

Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board Approves Carl Moyer Program Funds to Reduce Pollution

March 22, 2004, SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The Port of Oakland and San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI) are two of the biggest recipients of a \$3.32 million Carl Moyer Program grant recently approved by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for use in reducing emissions from heavy-duty engines.

The statewide Carl Moyer Program, which is managed locally by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, provides grants to cover the purchase of lower-emission, heavy-duty engines or pollution abatement devices for trucks, transit buses, marine vessels, construction equipment and agricultural pump engines. These engines are significant sources of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), a smog-forming pollutant, and diesel particulate matter, which the state of California has determined is a toxic air pollutant. The pollutants can cause lung damage and exacerbate asthma and other chronic lung diseases.

Of the recent \$3.32 million award, \$1.5 million will go to the Port of Oakland to replace engines on 100 older trucks operating at the Port's marine terminals in West Oakland, while more than \$500,000 has been designated to the San Francisco Municipal Railway to assist with the retrofit of up to 375 MUNI diesel buses.

Other projects to be covered by this grant include retrofitting the engines on a tugboat and replacing existing engines on six marine vessels, 17 off-road vehicles and one agricultural water pump. Once completed, the 16 projects will result in annual emission reductions of 189 tons of NO_x and 18 tons of particulate matter.

“These grants are an integral part of our strategy to protect Bay Area air quality,” said Jack P. Broadbent, Executive Officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. “Engine retrofits and replacements are a cost effective way to reduce emissions that negatively impact health and contribute to smog in the Bay Area.” The Air District staff evaluated and ranked 86 grant applications for emission reductions and cost effectiveness. In addition, projects that directly benefit areas with the most significant exposure to air contaminants, including areas where a large number of children and elderly residents are exposed to emissions, were given priority.

(more)

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\$3.3 Million in Funding to Reduce Engine Emissions**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency charged with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. It includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwest Solano and southern Sonoma counties. Established in 1955, the Air District implements a variety of programs that reduce air pollution from industry, transportation and area-wide sources. The Air District also sponsors the Spare the Air and Smoking Vehicle programs. For more information about the Air District, please visit www.baaqmd.gov.

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