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Repowering the Rails to Spare the Air Cleanest Diesel Passenger Locomotive is Unveiled

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and its partners marked the beginning of cleaner diesel technology on California railways with an event to introduce locomotive # 2015, the cleanest passenger locomotive in California.

The new engine will operate between Sacramento and the Bay Area along the Capitol Corridor route.

Many locomotives that travel through the Bay Area are powered by older, highly polluting diesel engines that lack advanced pollution controls. Upgrading these engines to current emission standards can cut pollution by approximately 45 percent.

"This repowered locomotive will greatly improve air quality and health in communities located along busy rail lines," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "It sets a new benchmark for cleaner passenger rail throughout California."

In 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tightened locomotive engine standards for all diesel line-haul, passenger and switch engines throughout the United States. Combined with cleaner fuels and tighter emissions standards, these rules will reduce particulate matter emissions by 90 percent, and oxides of nitrogen by 80 percent, by 2030.

"Upgrading this locomotive has made it the lowest emitting diesel passenger train in California," said Deborah Jordan, Air Division director for the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "This engine will perform at a level that even exceeds what is currently required by EPA's regulations."

Cleaner transit technology also helps in the fight against climate change--using public transit instead of driving is one of the most effective ways an individual can help reduce their carbon footprint.

"When you ride a Capitol Corridor train, your trip produces one third of the pollution that is emitted when you drive your car, and this retrofitted locomotive will make your trip even cleaner," Bay Area Air District and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority Board Member Jim Sperring said. "Getting drivers off the road and aboard trains is a big factor in the clean air equation. And operating cutting-edge technology—like fuel efficient, clean locomotives—is a necessary part of the green solution"

Funding of \$826,000 was provided by the Bay Area Air District, the Sacramento Metro Air District and the US EPA.

"The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is pleased to continue its partnership with the Bay Area to bring more clean locomotives to the Capitol Corridor. This is an important investment in the health of citizens all along this successful route," said Sacramento Air District Executive Director Larry Greene.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.baagmd.gov.

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