



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900 (office)
415.760.0285 (cell)**

Air District Approves \$1.2 Million for Vehicle Buy Back Program

SAN FRANCISCO - To reduce harmful air pollution from vehicle tailpipes, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Board of Directors has authorized \$1.2 million to fund the extension of the Vehicle Buyback Program for Bay Area residents.

"Pollution from automobiles is responsible for more than half of our air pollution in the Bay Area," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "The Vehicle Buy Back Program is a cost-effective way to get big polluters off the road. It's an investment in cleaner air that pays immediate dividends."

This voluntary program offers \$1,000 to owners of older, higher-emitting cars and light trucks to voluntarily retire their vehicles. Older vehicles lack modern emission control technology and pollute significantly more than newer models.

Since 1996, the Vehicle Buy Back Program has retired more than 49,400 cars and trucks. For each vehicle removed from Bay Area roads, an estimated 75 pounds of air pollutants are prevented from being emitted into the air annually.

Among the air pollutants reduced by the Vehicle Buy Back Program are fine particulates and ozone precursors—the main ingredients in smog. These pollutants contribute to respiratory diseases and increased mortality rates.

A partial list of program requirements includes:

- Vehicle must be a 1989 model year or older
- Vehicle must be currently registered as operable and can be driven
- Vehicle must have been registered in the Bay Area for the past 24 months
- Vehicles within 60 days of a required smog check must take and pass their smog check

Interested individuals can call 1-888-690-CASH (690-2274) toll-free for the names and phone numbers of the local auto dismantlers to determine if their vehicle qualifies. For general information about the Vehicle Buy Back Program, visit www.baaqmd.gov/vbb.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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