



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2015

CONTACT: Tom Flannigan
415.749.4900

Air District awards \$2.5 million to United Airlines for zero-emission equipment at SFO

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$2,540,187 to United Airlines, Inc. to fund the replacement of 87 diesel-powered ground support equipment units with zero emission equipment at the San Francisco International Airport.

This is the largest Air District grant issued for purchasing zero-emission equipment at a Bay Area airport. Ground support tow/tug equipment is used to service aircraft between flights, to help move aircraft within the terminal area, and to facilitate loading operations for cargo and passengers. United Airlines applied to the Air District for a grant to replace the old, diesel-powered aircraft tow/tug vehicles with electric, zero-emission equivalents.

“Reducing diesel engine pollution around airports protects both worker health as well as those who live nearby,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “By replacing these diesel-powered ground equipment units with electric substitutes, United Airlines will dramatically reduce air pollution from its operations and improve air quality for everyone in and around the San Francisco International Airport.”

This project is being funded through the Carl Moyer Program, a partnership between the California Air Resources Board and the local air districts throughout the state, to reduce air pollution emissions from local heavy and medium duty engines.

“At United Airlines we continuously look for ways to minimize the emissions from our operations,” said Angela Foster-Rice, Managing Director for Environmental Affairs and Sustainability at United Airlines. “The opportunity to replace older diesel equipment with new zero emissions equipment aligns perfectly with our corporate commitment to the environment and we are grateful for the Air District’s support.”

The program provides grants to public and private entities to reduce emissions from existing heavy-duty engines by either replacing or retrofitting them. Eligible heavy-duty diesel engine applications include on-road trucks and buses, off-road equipment, marine vessels, locomotives, stationary agricultural pump engines and forklifts. Grant funding is currently available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications can be submitted at www.baaqmd.gov/moyer.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

###