

**To: School Districts in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties**

**Re: Transportation Service Plan - Air District Consultation Under AB 181**

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for contacting the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) regarding Assembly Bill 181 (AB 181) for your Transportation Service Plan (Plan). AB 181, now codified in California Education Code §39800.1, requires school districts to develop transportation service plans in consultation with the local air pollution control districts. Your receipt and consideration of the information provided in this letter satisfy the consultation requirements. MBARD offers the following comments and information:

### **Coordination Efforts**

MBARD appreciates the coordination efforts in preparation of a Plan that results in policies and commitments to reduce air quality impacts in the Monterey Bay Area. Consistent with this cooperative effort, the MBARD recommends the Plan include clean air measures that will further improve air quality for the residents of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. The Plan should include, as feasible, mobile source-related clean-air measures since motor vehicle emissions are the largest source of air pollution in the Monterey Bay Area, making it more difficult to attain state and federal ambient air quality standards. To assist with these goals, MBARD offers numerous grants and incentive funding-based programs.

### **MBARD Grant Programs and Recommended Clean Air Measures**

#### **Zero-Emission School Bus Program**

The Zero Emissions School Bus Program (ZESBP) provides school districts with an opportunity to replace diesel school buses with clean running electric buses, reducing overhead costs and improving local air quality while helping to educate students about the benefits of electric vehicles. To find out more information about the Zero Emission School Bus Program, please visit our webpage:

<https://www.mbard.org/zero-emission-school-bus-program>.

#### **Community Air Protection Program**

The Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) reduces pollution exposure in communities based on environmental, health, and socio-economic information. Air quality improvements in these communities are accomplished by enhancing air monitoring, providing cleaner technologies, and engaging the community. To find out more information about the Community Air Protection Program, please visit our webpage:

<https://www.mbard.org/ab-617-community-air-protection>.

### **Electric Vehicle Incentive Program**

The program provides funding for the purchase or lease of new or used alternative fuel passenger vehicles such as zero-emission electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.mbard.org/electric-vehicle-incentive-program>.

### **E-Bike Incentive Program (e-BIP)**

The program provides funding for the purchase of electric bikes to low-income applicants from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. As e-bike technology advances and more e-bike models become available, e-bikes can be a useful way to displace vehicle trips for commuting to work or school and for running errands. MBARD encourages the use of pedal and electric power to reduce smog forming and global warming emissions while promoting the health and well-being of our community. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.mbard.org/e-bike-incentive-program>.

### **Diesel Engine & Equipment Replacement Program**

The program provides funding to encourage replacement of older heavy-duty motors/engines operated in one or more of MBARD's three counties: Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. The types of equipment funded include irrigation pump engines, mobile agricultural equipment, fishing, and commercial marine vessels, and construction equipment. Additional information may be found at: <https://www.mbard.org/diesel-engine-equipment-replacement-program>.

### **Reduce Idling of Heavy-Duty Vehicles**

The goal of this strategy is to limit the potential for localized PM2.5 and toxic air contaminant impacts associated with the idling of heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. school buses). The diesel exhaust from idling has the potential to cause significant adverse health impacts. As such, MBARD recommends the Plan consider a measure for compliance of the state anti-idling regulation (13 CCR § 2485 and 13 CCR § 2480) and discuss the importance of limiting the amount of idling, especially nearby and within the boundaries of a school.

### **Heavy Duty Vehicle Routing**

MBARD recommends the Plan consider evaluating heavy-duty vehicle (e.g. school buses) routing patterns, with the goal of this strategy limiting exposure of residential communities to diesel exhaust emissions. This evaluation would consider the current heavy-duty vehicle routes, the destination of each trip, traffic volume correlation with the time of day or day of the week, and overall vehicle miles traveled. The heavy-duty vehicle routing evaluation would also identify alternative heavy-duty vehicle routes and their impacts on vehicle miles traveled and air quality.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact David Frisbey, Planning and Air Monitoring Manager by phone at (831) 647-9411 or at [dfrisbey@mbard.org](mailto:dfrisbey@mbard.org).