

Newsom Announces New Environmental Retrofitting for Regional Transit Vehicles



Mayor touts Clean Diesel Bus Program as important step toward reducing effects of global warming. San Francisco Muni leads the way by retrofitting 424 diesel buses – the most of any transit district.

San Francisco, CA – Mayor Newsom was joined on Treasure Island yesterday by representatives of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the area’s transit systems (including Muni, AC Transit, Golden Gate Bridge District, VTA, SamTrans, and County Connection) to announce an unprecedented diesel cleanup program for the area’s transit providers.

Publisher: California Chronicle
Date: September 27, 2006

More than 1,700 diesel buses from 13 Bay Area transit districts are being retrofitted with diesel exhaust purifiers. Combined, these high-tech emission control filters annually capture more than 50 tons of harmful particulate matter and 436 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) that buses otherwise would have spewed into Bay Area air. San Francisco Muni leads the way by retrofitting 424 diesel buses – the most of any transit district.

This is an important and unique advancement because Diesel particulate matter is a toxic air contaminant that can cause lung disease and cancer. NOx, another component of diesel exhaust, is a precursor to ozone, which can cause respiratory disease. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable.

“We’re learning more and more about what causes global warming and what we need to do to be more “proactive” in eliminating these harmful elements and gases from our air and environment,” said Mayor Newsom. “ This program serves as yet another example of San Francisco and the Bay Area leading the way with its unprecedented investments in clean air, renewable energy, creating a comprehensive Climate Action Plan, and the continued promotion of recycling and conservation,” continued the Mayor. The diesel exhaust purifiers are designed and installed by Cleaire Advanced Emission Controls of San Leandro – a local firm leading the way for California and the nation in cleaning up dangerous diesel exhaust.

The purifiers capture 85 percent of the particulate matter – including the dangerous ultrafine particulates that cause the worst health problems -- and reduce 25 percent of the NOx created by the buses’ engines.

Newsom Announces New Enviornmental Retrofitting for Regional Transit Vehicles

Page 2 of 2

On an average Bay Area bus, each diesel exhaust purifier reduces particulate matter emissions by 60 pounds per year and reduces NOx emissions by 517 pounds per year. About 60% of diesel particulate matter is Black Carbon, which is a contributor to global warming. Also, the hydrocarbons in diesel exhaust contribute to global warming. The filters installed on the buses in the Clean Diesel Bus Program reduce hydrocarbon emissions by 88 tons a year.

This unique program is also considered a financially sound approach to combating global warming and reducing harmful emission. Diesel emissions can be cleaned up in two ways: replace the vehicle or retrofit the exhaust. Although some clean new buses have been purchased, however Muni's workhorse diesel buses typically last 20 years or longer, so it is a wiser use of scarce public dollars to install filters on buses with years of life remaining rather than scrap the entire bus.

Each filter installation costs about \$18,000, compared to \$140,000 or more for a new bus. By upgrading 424 buses instead of replacing them, Muni saved \$50 million and is delivering the environmental and health benefits of clean emissions. #