

For Immediate Release

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Madera School District Completes First Installation of Diesel Exhaust Purifiers

More than 500 Pounds of Toxic Particulate Matter Removed From Valley's Air Each Year

MADERA, CA (September 20, 2006) – Madera Unified School District (MUSD) and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District today unveiled the district's first school bus equipped with a diesel emission purifier to dramatically reduce the amount of toxic soot spewed from its engine.

The district is installing diesel exhaust purifiers on all 11 of its school buses this month. The project marks a new era in the air quality improvement.

"The health and safety of our children and community is of the utmost importance to the Madera Unified School District," said Madera Schools Superintendent Larry Risinger. "Removing dangerous particulate matter from school buses is a significant health benefit for Madera."

Approximately 5,000 students within MUSD ride school buses each day. Each week, MUSD buses travel more than 60 routes. In a year, MUSD buses travel a million miles.

The diesel exhaust purifiers captures particulate matter (PM) and reduces nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emitted by school buses. These toxins are known to cause respiratory disease and lung damage, particularly among children.

"As a result of these installations, more than 500 pounds of particulate matter each year will be kept out of the air our school children and community breathes," said San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District Director of Permit Services Seyed Sadredin. "This is a dramatic improvement and a great step toward meeting the San Joaquin Air District's goals."

To remove toxic diesel emissions from school buses, districts can install diesel exhaust purifiers for approximately \$10,000 each plus the cost of installation,

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support, and maintenance, depending on the age of each engine. The alternatives -- replacing each bus engine or replacing the buses altogether with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses – are much more expensive. In all, there are 24,500 school buses in California.

The diesel exhaust purifiers were designed, manufactured and installed by Cleaire Advanced Emission Controls of San Leandro, California. The firm has installed diesel cleanup systems on more than 2,800 trucks and buses in the state.

“MUSD is very grateful to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for the funding to retrofit 11 of our school buses,” said MUSD Director of Transportation Sam Armentrout. “This grant funding, along with previous grant funding for CNG replacement buses, shows a commitment to our students, and the community’s health by the District’s Board of Trustees.”

Installations were made possible by funding from the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District, which oversees grants to school bus fleets under the Lower-Emission School Bus Program signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Under this plan, \$25 million in funds are made available to school districts across the state of California to improve emissions from diesel school buses. Of this \$25 million, \$12.5 million is to be spent on new bus purchases and \$12.5 million to retrofit in-use diesel buses with devices that reduce particulate matter emissions by at least 85 percent.

“We are very pleased that Madera has moved quickly to retrofit its buses,” said California Air Resources Board spokesperson Jerry Martin. “The ARB is the conduit for Governor Schwarzenegger and the legislature to fund the cleanup of school buses.”

“It is exciting to help school districts improve the quality of the air its children breath while riding on the buses,” said Brad Edgar, Cleaire’s chief technology officer. “Most students do not have a choice on how to get to school, but when we make their commute healthier, it’s very rewarding.”

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Cleaire Advanced Emissions Controls® designs, develops and manufactures state-of-the-art diesel exhaust purifiers used to clean up existing in-use diesel engines. Cleaire's technologies provide maximum emission reductions for a wide range of diesel engine applications including trucks, transit buses, school buses, and off-highway construction equipment. For more information, please visit www.cleaire.com. ###