



School Bus Retrofit Program Summary

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), in partnership with the Butte County Air Pollution Control District (BCAPCD), El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD), Glenn County Air Pollution Control District (GCAPCD), and Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) announces the availability of \$16,170,000 to replace pre-1987 school buses with new low emission school buses and install verified emission control (retrofit) devices on 1987 or newer in-use school buses within the northern California air districts. This is the largest single funding source available to the Lower Emission School Bus Program since 2000.

Background:

The Lower Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) was established in 2000 as a grant program to fund the purchase of new school buses to replace old, high-polluting public school buses and to equip public in-use school buses with retrofit devices. Participation in this program is voluntary. Funds for this program were created through Proposition 1B (Prop 1B), the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006. Prop 1B was approved by California voters in November 2006. This bond designates a portion of the \$200 million to install Level 3 retrofit devices on 1987 or newer in-use school buses statewide.

Air pollution from diesel vehicles has health implications for everyone, but children are more susceptible because they breathe 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than do adults. Diesel exhaust contains significant levels of small particles, known as PARTICULATE MATTER (PM), especially fine particles. Children riding older school buses are exposed to these harmful diesel pollutants.

Program Goal:

The primary goal of this program is to reduce school children's exposure to cancer-causing and smog-forming pollution by encouraging the use of verified diesel emission control (retrofit) devices on existing school buses. Following the replacement of qualifying pre-1977 model year buses, the air districts have allocated a minimum of 30 percent of their total Prop 1B funds to retrofit post-1986 model year buses with Level 3 devices. The widespread use of these technologies can provide significant improvement to air quality in each of the air district regions. The operation of a Level 3 retrofit device on a qualified, existing bus emits 85 percent fewer toxic PM emissions.

The SMAQMD has set a retrofit target to help ensure that state funds are available to help school districts comply with the proposed ***In-Use On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles Regulation***. If the school districts choose not to participate in the Prop 1B retrofit funding, the cost of compliance with the new regulatory requirements will be in the responsibility of the school districts once the regulation is adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Qualifying Entities and Total Funding Available for this Grant by Jurisdiction:

Any public school district that owns their own school buses within the boundaries of the named air districts, or a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that has been formed by several public school districts and the JPA holds ownership of the school bus in the named air district regions, is eligible to apply for funds. School transportation contractors that provide transportation service to public schools within the named air district regions are also eligible to apply for school bus retrofit funds.

The total LESBP funding allocations for public school districts in each air district follows:

Air District	LESBP Funds
Butte County Air Pollution Control District	\$ 2,600,000
El Dorado County Air Quality Management District	2,100,000
Glenn County Air Pollution Control District	470,000
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District	9,100,000
Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District	1,900,000
Total	\$ 16,170,000

Eligible Buses:

The school bus retrofit component offers grant funding to retrofit qualifying 1987 and newer engine model year school buses with Level 3 exhaust retrofit devices.

The eligibility criteria for any existing diesel-fueled school bus to be retrofitted:

- Existing school bus must be a 1987 or newer engine model year school bus.
- Existing school bus must have a current California Highway Patrol safety certification.
- Existing school bus must be currently registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Project Selection:

The SMAQMD will preferentially choose to retrofit the most current engine model year buses that qualify for Level 3 devices for each eligible applicant until all the retrofit funds are expended. School buses selected for Level 3 retrofits will receive funding up to the \$20,000 cost cap. The cost cap includes the purchase and installation of the retrofit device as well as data logging (up to \$300), filter maintenance (up to \$2,500), infrastructure, and tax.

Filter maintenance options:

- Funds will include up to \$2,500 per device;
- or –
- School bus fleets with a minimum of six buses retrofitted with Level 3 devices are eligible for a de-ashing system;
- and/or –
- School bus fleets with a minimum of 20 buses retrofitted with Level 3 devices will qualify for funding for one (1) spare filter. Buses that have been previously retrofitted or are anticipated to be retrofitted with the Prop 1B funds may be counted toward these requirements provided that the air districts have not already paid for a maintenance service plan.

Application Materials:

The Program Application, Application Checklist, and more information about the Lower-Emission School Bus Program can be found at the following website:

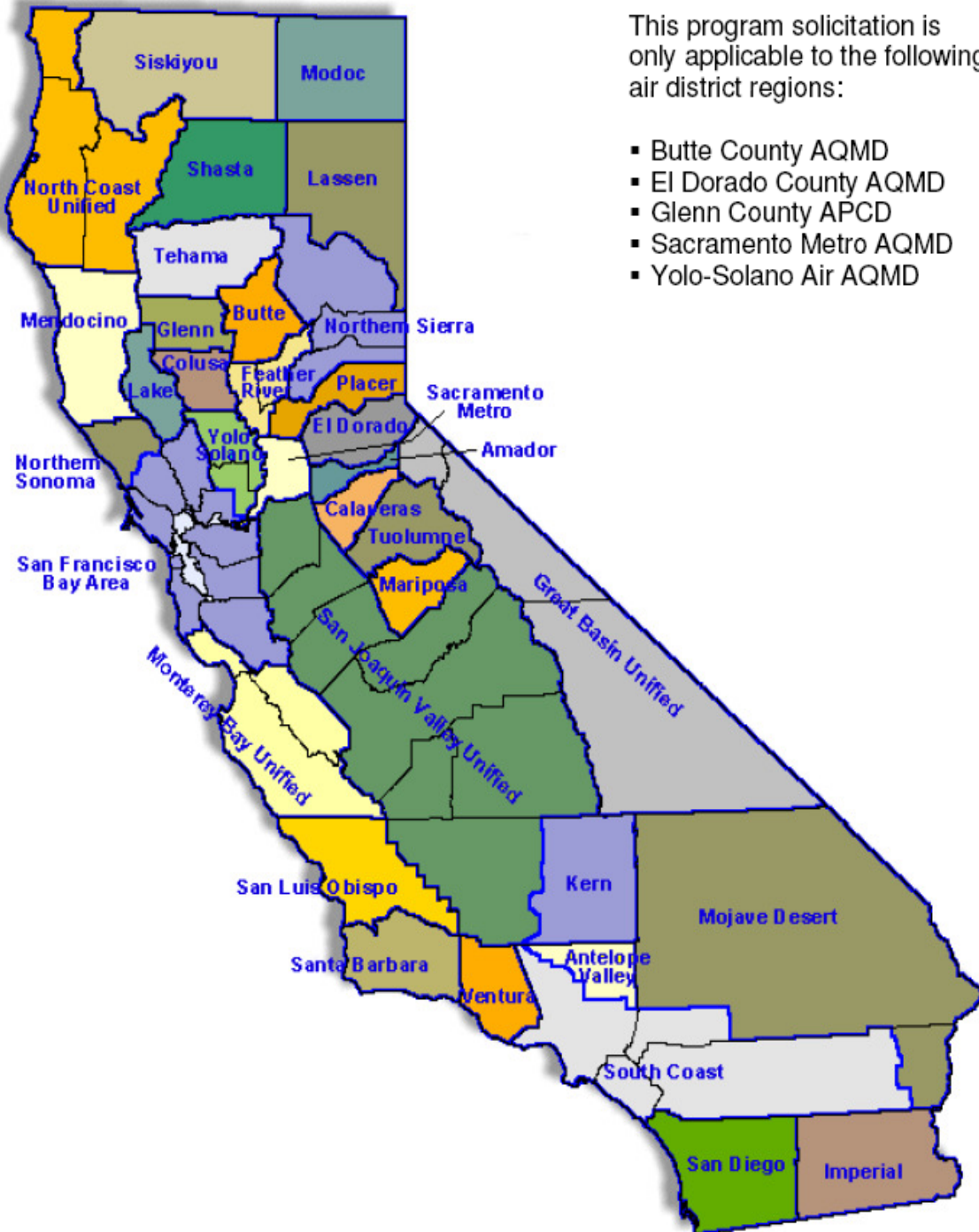
<http://www.airquality.org/mobile/schoolbus/index.shtml>

Application Deadline:

All Program Applications and supporting documents listed on the Application Checklist must be post marked or dated stamped by the SMAQMD no later than **December 15, 2008**. All application materials must be delivered or sent to the following address:

Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD
Attn: School Bus Replacement Program
777 12th Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Air Districts



This program solicitation is only applicable to the following air district regions:

- Butte County AQMD
- El Dorado County AQMD
- Glenn County APCD
- Sacramento Metro AQMD
- Yolo-Solano Air AQMD