

News Release

For immediate release

10-25-10

Attn: Local news and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Media Advisory

- WHO:** Superintendent Carl Toliver, Stockton Unified School District
Mayor Ann Johnston, Stockton
Supervisor Leroy Ornellas, San Joaquin County
Executive Director/APCO Seyed Sadredin, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
- WHAT:** Unveiling new, clean-diesel school buses
- WHEN:** Monday, October 25, 2 p.m.
- WHERE:** Stockton Unified School District Transportation Dept.
2963 Sanguinetti Lane, Stockton
<http://www.stockton.k12.ca.us/susdweb/deptmap.htm>

Air District grants put cleaner buses In Stockton Unified

Forty-three new, clean-diesel buses will be rolled out in Stockton Unified School District, thanks to more than \$4 million in grants from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The new buses replace older, more polluting diesel-powered buses and will emit 90 percent less total emissions over their lifetimes, including drastic reductions in particulate pollution. Particulate pollution has been linked to chronic lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and premature death.

The Air District's funding of \$4,182,845 came from local DMV funds, state Air Resources Board (ARB) and the federal government. Stockton Unified School District also contributed \$1 million to the project, bringing the total to \$5,182,845.

"This is a great example of a project that has far-reaching benefits for not only Valley schoolchildren but the air basin in general," said Seyed Sadredin, the executive director and air pollution control officer for the Valley Air District. "Incentive funding such as this is critical to cleaning up our air."

"The yellow school bus is an iconic symbol - one that conjures images of happy school children," said ARB Chairman Mary D. Nichols. "Today, not only should the children be smiling,

but so should the bus drivers and maintenance workers, local community members and anyone who lives or works where school buses operate. I congratulate the Stockton Unified School District for taking advantage of available state funding to clean up their bus fleet for the benefit of local air quality and public health."

This year, the Air District will distribute about \$112 million throughout the air basin in grants that address virtually every sector and population, such as agricultural equipment; diesel truck retrofits; school bus purchases and retrofits; and residential programs including fireplace upgrades and clean lawn care equipment.

"These programs are critical and invaluable in helping our Valley meet the challenge of attaining clean air," Sadredin said.

For more information about the Air District, call the Modesto office at (209) 557-6400 or visit www.valleyair.org.