

State fines Bakersfield firm for failure to update diesel trucks

By Mark Glover

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The California Air Resources Board has fined Bakersfield-based KS Industries, an engineering and construction firm, \$230,250 for failing to update its diesel trucks to clean up harmful emissions as required by state anti-pollution laws.

ARB investigators said the company for missed two key compliance deadlines: failing to retrofit 1996-1999 model year heavy duty trucks with diesel particulate filters by Jan. 1, 2012, and failure to retrofit 2000-2004 model year trucks by Jan. 1, 2013.

ARB said \$172,688 was paid to the California Air Pollution Control Fund to fund air pollution research, and the remaining \$57,562 has been paid to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution District to fund the School Bus Retrofit Supplemental Environmental Project.

In 1998, California identified diesel particulate matter as a toxic air contaminant based on its potential to cause cancer, premature death and other health problems.