

Workshop to explain truck emissions deadline

by Ben Keller

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The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will hold a workshop for truckers on Dec. 12 explaining next year's compliance deadline with the state's Truck and Bus rule.

By the Jan. 1 deadline, all heavy duty trucks with 2005 model year engines or newer must be equipped with a device to filter out particulate emissions.

Trucks with 2010 model year engines are already compliant with the rule, first approved in 2008 to reduce particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and other diesel emissions throughout the state.

To assist in the purchases, the air district recently made \$10 million in additional funding available through grants that will offset the cost of the devices or new trucks.

To date, the air district has awarded more than \$114 million in truck funding that has helped to replace more than 2,000 trucks.

In November, the California Air Resources Board passed an amendment to the Truck and Bus Rule that gives truck owners an additional six months to comply if they've made a good faith effort to invest in retrofits or new trucks but were denied loans or faced other challenges in the process.

"We are very pleased that the Air Resources Board sees the importance of allowing additional time for these small trucking operations to receive critical funding that allows them to go beyond what is required by this regulation," said Sayed Sadredin, the Valley Air District's executive director, in a release.

"Although these changes provided some needed flexibility, more action by the ARB is needed to ensure effective implementation and avoid economic detriment to Valley businesses."

The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the air district's Fresno office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.

Trucking companies can learn more about the rule and grants available by going to www.valleyair.org/trucks or calling 1-855-99-GRANT (7268).