

News Release

For immediate release

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For: local news and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Air Districts, state and federal agencies showcase clean trucks, buses in Bakersfield

Padre Hotel event Feb. 29 includes first-in-nation electric school bus

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: Vehicle Showcase and press conference

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 29, at noon

WHERE: Parking lot at H and 19th streets, north of Padre Hotel, Bakersfield

WHY: State of the art electric, hybrid and fuel-cell trucks and buses reduce emissions critical in meeting health-based air quality standards in California.

WHO: Jared Blumenfeld, Region 9 Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

James Goldstene, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board

Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director/APCO, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Barry Wallerstein, Executive Director/APCO, South Coast Air Quality Management District

ETC.: Photo, video opportunities

New electric, hybrid and fuel cell trucks and buses – including the nation’s first all-electric school bus, purchased with Valley Air District grants by Kings Canyon Unified School District -- are wheeling into Bakersfield on Feb. 29 for a showcase hosted by a consortium of key federal, state and regional environmental agencies.

The Vehicle Showcase event and noon press conference at the Padre Hotel is part of a day-long meeting, “Cleaner Trucks, Cleaner Air: Connecting Low Emission Truck and Bus Developers, Distributors, Fleets and Funders.” Guests from California and across the nation include truck and bus developers, government and private funders, fleet owners and nonprofit organization leaders. Topics include “The Role of Clean Truck Technologies to Address Air Quality and Energy Challenges,” “Low Emission Truck and Bus Technologies,” and “Experiences and Lessons Learned from Early Fleet Adopters.”

The event, one of a series that will focus on air emission sources in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District. Leaders of these agencies will discuss the Clean Air Technology Initiative, a partnership to promote greater use of zero- and low-emission vehicles.

During the Vehicle Showcase, manufacturer representatives will be offering rides around the block in several of these vehicles. Among them is the Smith electric school bus, purchased with grants from the Valley Air District and heading for its permanent home in the Kings Canyon Unified School District.

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VEHICLE SHOWCASE IN BAKERSFIELD

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"California continues to have some of the worst air quality in the nation," said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for EPA's Pacific Southwest. "Significant amount of the pollution is from trucks. Therefore, it is critical to invest in new technologies that still allow for goods movement while decreasing emissions."

The San Joaquin Valley and Southern California both face unique challenges and need significant reductions in vehicle emissions to attain federal, health-based air quality standards. As vehicle use produce the majority of these air basins' air pollution, new technologies are critical in reducing emissions.

"These cutting-edge technologies represent the future of emission reduction in California and will help us accomplish many key goals," said ARB Executive Officer James Goldstene. "They will help lower our state's dependence on foreign oil , secure our energy future and combat climate change. And much like our groundbreaking clean air regulations of the past 40 years, we expect clean truck technology innovations and deployment will provide economic benefits to California by creating green jobs for the 21st century."

"While ozone and particulate matter levels in the Valley are declining over the long term, significant challenges remain," said Valley Air District Executive Director Seyed Sadredin. "Meeting the health-based standards established by the EPA will require many new technologies to be used, including those for clean trucks and buses, to further reduce emissions."

Besides the Smith electric school bus, vehicles confirmed for the event include a FedEx Freightliner electric delivery truck; an IC hybrid electric school bus; and an Azure Dynamics all-electric Ford Transit Connect. The San Joaquin Valley Clean Cities Coalition will distribute information on Hybrid and Plug-in Electric Vehicles.

"Zero- and near-zero emission vehicle technologies are probably the single most important tool we have to help reach clean air goals," said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. "This conference will help us build awareness and familiarity with these critical cleaner technologies."

For more information about this event, contact Brenda Turner at (661) 392 5581, or by cell on the day of the event at (661) 345-1022.

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