



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 4, 2007

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Contractors, Construction Workers and Infrastructure Advocates
Announce the “Coalition to Build a Cleaner California”
Economic Analysis of Proposed CARB Construction Equipment Rules Released

Sacramento, CA – Members of the construction industry, Labor and infrastructure stakeholders today announced the formation of The Coalition to Build a Cleaner California and released an economic analysis of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff proposal on off-road (construction equipment) diesel engine regulations. CARB is scheduled to take up the staff recommendations at their May 25th meeting in San Diego.

CARB’s new rules are designed to reduce Particulate Matter (PM) from all diesel-fueled engines in California by 75 percent by 2010, and by 85 percent by 2020. CARB also belatedly decided to simultaneously seek accelerated reductions in NOx emissions from off-road engines. (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/isor.pdf>)

“The Coalition to Build a Cleaner California is committed to playing an active role in improving the state’s air quality,” said Mike Lewis, Senior Vice President of the Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition (CIAQC). “In fact, over the past five years in Southern California alone, more than 1,000 high polluting machines have been replaced, resulting in a reduction of more than 3,787 tons of pollution every year. But CARB’s new accelerated targets, while laudable, are not realistic in the given time frame.”

The Coalition to Build a Cleaner California also released an economic analysis rebutting many of the assumptions in the CARB staff report.

Among the findings in the analysis:

- The cost of meeting these new regulations would be \$13 billion from 2009-2020, more than quadruple the \$3 billion assumed by the CARB staff report.
- The projected statewide employment loss is estimated to be between 10,900 to 34,000 jobs. This represents 1.3% to 4.1% of the state’s construction employment.
- The regulatory costs associated with compliance are likely to increase costs of the voter-approved infrastructure bond projects by about \$2.1 billion. This represents 5% of the authorized bond amounts. For the full economic analysis and other information, visit www.BuildACleanerCA.org.

“The CARB staff’s proposed regulations are based upon faulty assumptions that overstate the availability of technology,” added Lewis. “They understate the economic impact on the industry

and its workers and the detrimental impact upon the cost and timing of the infrastructure bond construction projects approved by voters last year.”

“No one on this coalition is opposed to moving towards cleaner construction equipment,” said John Dunlap, a former California Air Resources Board Chairman. “But if the rule doesn’t work, it will do more harm than good. We must find an achievable solution, not one that just looks good on paper.”

“The scope of these new rules dwarfs anything CARB has ever undertaken,” said Jim Earp of the California Alliance for Jobs. “The industry has neither the time, the finances, nor the technology to meet the targets in the given time frame. The net effect of these rules will be increased construction costs, companies laying off workers or both. That means increased costs or lengthy delays for the infrastructure projects approved by the voters last November.”

The Coalition to Build a Cleaner California is dedicated to improving California's air quality while maximizing the historic infrastructure investment approved by California voters in November 2006. The Coalition members announced include:

Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition Members

Associated General Contractors of California
Associated General Contractors of San Diego
Building Industry Association of Southern California
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
Engineering Contractors Association
Engineering & Utility Contractors Association
Engineering and General Contractors Association
Mobile Crane Operators Group
Southern California Contractors Association
The California Rental Association

Labor Organizations

California Conference of Carpenters
Operating Engineers Local Union Nos. 3 & 12
Southern California Cement Masons Local 600
Southern California District Council of Laborers

Individual Construction Contractors

SKANSKA Construction
Synes & Pennick Inc.

Coalition Partners

AGC America
American Concrete Pumping Association
American Road and Transportation Builders Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
California Alliance for Jobs

California Building Industry Association
California Dump Truck Owners Association
California Ski Industry Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
Valley Contractors Exchange

For more information on the Coalition to Build a Cleaner California visit www.buildacleanerca.org