

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
12/03/2018

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Christopher D. Brown, AICP, APCO

SUBJECT: Approve letter requesting Air Resources Board update Lower Emission School Bus Guidelines and authorize the Chairman to execute related documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve letter requesting Air Resources Board update the Lower Emission School Bus Guidelines and authorize the Chairman to execute related documents.

ALTERNATIVES:

Provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND:

The Lower Emission School Bus Program (LESBP) was established by the Air Resources Board (ARB) to reduce school children exposure to both cancer-causing and smog-forming pollution. The program provides grant funding for new, safer school buses and to put air pollution control equipment on buses already on the road.

The LESBP Guidelines were last amended by ARB in 2008 and restricted school bus replacement projects to school bus model year 1986 and older. The ARB issues "Mail-out guidance" to air districts participating in the LESBP on implementation of the program. Mail-out # MSC 10-45 on October 18, 2010, authorized the replacement of 1993 and older buses using an air districts AB 923 funding.

DISCUSSION:

At the November 7, 2018, Policy/Finance Committee meeting it was noted that the District's Blue Sky Program AB 923 funding must be administered in accordance with the LESBP Guidelines or the Carl Moyer Guidelines. Recent revisions to the Carl Moyer Program authorized school bus replacements as a valid project type. Districts can fund school bus replacements using AB 923 funds under LESBP Guidelines or Carl Moyer Guidelines.

Since the LESBP Guidelines and Mail-out # MSC 10-45 allow the replacement of 1993 and older buses, any school bus replacement project with an existing bus 1994 and newer must be administered under the Carl Moyer Guidelines. Under the Carl Moyer Guidelines, the bus must meet cost-effectiveness caps, pass a compliance check, and report usage annually. The old buses must also be disposed of at a salvage yard immediately rather than be donated to fire departments for training purposes.

The Policy/Finance Committee requested that the District staff place on the December Board Agenda a letter to the ARB requesting an update of the model year requirements under the LESBP Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no expected fiscal impact from this action.