

News Release

For immediate release

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For: local news and assignment editors

NOTE TO BROADCASTERS:

High-resolution B-roll of the new CNG buses is available.

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Fresno Unified rolls out 30 clean-air buses

New vehicles eliminate 98 percent harmful emissions

Thirty compressed natural-gas school buses rolled out to transport Fresno Unified School District students this week, thanks to more than \$5 million in grants from federal, state and local air quality agencies.

The buses replace 30 diesel-powered buses built in 1977. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District estimates that the new CNG buses will emit 98 percent less particulate pollution over their lifetimes. The old buses emitted over 330 tons of particulates in their lifetimes, while the new buses will emit less than seven tons. Particulate pollution has been linked to chronic lung disease, respiratory illness, heart attacks and premature death.

The buses meet 2010 emissions standards, and also have lap and shoulder belts.

The \$5,033,814 in funding for the buses came from four different sources: the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Lower Emission School Bus Program, which is administered by the Valley Air District; from federal stimulus money (ARRA), through the US Environmental Protection Agency; from state Department of Motor Vehicle fees and from Fresno Unified.

"I applaud all those who helped make the delivery of these 30 cleaner buses for Fresno Unified School District," said ARB Executive Officer, James Goldstene. "Because the technology is 98 percent cleaner than the older, dirtier school buses, the children will have cleaner air to breathe on their way to school and the community will see better air quality for years to come."

"This is a great example of a project that has far-reaching benefits for not only Valley schoolchildren but the air basin in general," said Seyed Sadredin, the Valley Air

Fresno Unified Rolls Out 30 Clean-Air Buses

8-18-10

Page 2 of 2

District's executive director. "Incentive funding such as this is critical to cleaning up our air."

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.