The goal of the Collaborative is to leverage significant federal funds to reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in the most affected communities. The Collaborative seeks to significantly improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies. The Collaborative is one of the first pilot projects of the National Clean Diesel Campaign.

Important Events in Congress

As many of you are already aware, there has been quite a bit of activity with the US Congress on the voluntary diesel emission reductions programs. For the first time ever, the West Coast Collaborative was appropriated $3 million (which is double what we granted last year using discretionary funds) within EPA’s FY06 budget under the auspices of the National Clean Diesel Campaign. In addition, there were over $450 million in authorizations to reduce diesel emissions in the Energy Bill and amendments to the CMAQ program and the Surface Transportation Fund that will encourage diesel retrofits and idle reduction.

Many of the non-federal government Collaborative members have subsequently been involved in US congressional advocacy efforts to appropriate $200 million in the FY07 budget. These advocates included Caterpillar, Environmental Defense, STAPPA/ALAPCO and various state and local air agencies, Union of Concerned Scientists, American Trucking Association and the American Association of Port Authorities, to name a few. This group collected signatures for a letter to the President and the 3 Governors of California, Washington, and Oregon sent a letter as well.

A full summary of these Congressional activities can be found at: http://www.west-coastcollaborative.org/congress.htm.

Sector Workgroups

All of our sector workgroups met via conference call in mid-September to talk about new technologies and programs that are working to reduce diesel emissions. Summary notes for all meetings can be found on the respective sector workgroup pages.

Marine Vessels and Ports Workgroup met in person in October in San Francisco to begin to identify key areas for collective action to reduce diesel emissions. Next meeting: Tuesday, November, 22; 9-11am, teleconference.

Agricultural Sector: Monday, November 21; 10am-2pm, in person meeting in Modesto Monday, December 12; 10-11am, teleconference.
Web Site: New Look, New Information

This is just a reminder to please check our amazing website (which we just recently gave a bit of a face lift) regularly! We update both our current grants website http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/grants.htm and our current events website http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/calendar.htm every week.

In addition, we regularly add new resources such as an interactive map of all of our projects to date: http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/projects.htm, a health resources clearinghouse: http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/health.htm and a list of emissions calculators http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/calculators.htm.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

On December 7-8, 2005, EPA, together with co-sponsors the Diesel Technology Forum and Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association, will host the 2005 National Clean Diesel Campaign Policy Leaders Summit: Accelerating the Path to Cleaner Air in Washington, DC. For more information and to register for this free conference, please go to: http://www.cleanfleetsusa.net/.

On January 30-February 1, EPA, SCAQMD, CARB, POLA and SCAG are co-hosting Faster Freight - Cleaner Air (FFCA), a 3-day conference at the Long Beach Convention Center showcasing the innovative programs, policies and technologies now being implemented in ports in Southern California and across the nation to improve efficiency and reduce the air quality impacts of the goods movement industry. The goal of FFCA 2006 is to spur the widespread adoption of these innovative practices and low-emission technologies by networking stakeholders and increasing awareness of advanced goods movement equipment and systems. To learn more about FFCA, visit www.ffca2006.com.
Press Events for FY05 Grant Projects

Over the past few months we have also had many successful press events to highlight our 2005 grant winners:

On August 22 in Sacramento, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson, Cal/EPA Secretary Alan Lloyd, SMAQMD Board Member Roger Dickinson, American Lung Association of CA Government Relations VP Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Cleaire President Kevin Shanahan and EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri announced a demonstration project to reduce emissions from construction equipment using add-on control devices (http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/grants/ca-const-equip-retrofit.htm).

On September 15 at the Port of San Francisco, BAAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer Jack Broadbent, Bluewater Network Clean Vessels Campaign Director Teri Shore, San Francisco Cruise Terminal representative Paul Osmundson, Port of San Francisco Executive Director Monique Moyer, Princess Cruises Senior VP Dean Brown and EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri announced a demonstration project to reduce emissions from cruise ships docked at the port by incentivizing the use of cleaner fuels (http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/grants/ca-cruise-liner.htm).

On October 3 in Seattle, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), NW Energy Technology Collaborative President Jeff Morris, Puget Sound Energy and EPA Region 10 Collaborative Coordinator Peter Murchie announced a grant to use biodiesel from food waste oil to power utility trucks along the US/Canadian border (http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org/grants/wa-bio-49.htm).

FY06 Request for Proposals

Lastly, stay tuned—EPA will be announcing a request for initial proposals for $3 million for diesel emissions reductions projects in December 2005.