DERA 2011: Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Mining Equipment Retrofit Project

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC’s) early completion of its project to retrofit heavy-duty diesel mining equipment. This project was implemented using $150,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant funding combined with nearly $13,000 in leveraged funds from the SRPMIC and the Salt River Materials Group (SRMG).

What is this project?
Retrofit 7 heavy-duty diesel-powered mining loaders that are operated by the SRPMIC’s wholly owned SRMG. The diesel particulate filter (DPF) retrofits installed under this project will significantly reduce the emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and other pollutants from the associated pieces of non-road mining equipment.

Why is this project important?
The SRPMIC’s location within the dense urban region of Maricopa County, Arizona results in a broad range of economic development and land uses which, in turn, lead to a variety of pollution sources. The SRPMIC includes 12,000 acres of agricultural cultivation, large-scale aggregate mining operation, as well as landfill operations. The continued urbanization of this region has also encroached on the Community boundaries, with major highways such as the Pima Loop 101 (HWY 101-Pima Freeway), Loop 202 (Red Mountain Freeway) and Beeline Highway (AZHWY 87) coursing through the Community. This growth continues to significantly increase the number of mobile sources and resultant air pollution. The SRPMIC DERA project will reduce emissions from diesel mining equipment used on the Community.

What are the environmental & health benefits?
Over the lifetime of the project, the emissions of the 7 affected engines will be reduced by 6.1 fine particulate matter (PM2.5) tons, 8.7 hydrocarbon (HC) tons, and 35.8 carbon monoxide (CO) tons. On an annual basis, the associated PM2.5 emissions reductions will generate nearly $33 dollars in monetary health benefits in Maricopa County, Arizona for every $1 spent on the project.

How was this project funded?
The WCC provided $150,000 in DERA grant funds to support this project. $10,379 worth of in-kind services was contributed by SRPMIC along with $2,110 in leveraged funds from SRMG.

Who were the Partners on this project?
The project was led by SRPMIC, a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Maricopa County, Arizona. SRPMIC received the DERA grant award through the WCC, and distributed the grant funds to the wholly owned and operated SRMG mining fleet. SRPMIC was also responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

What is the West Coast Collaborative?
The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, local and tribal governments, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. Partners come from all over Western North America, including: Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Canada and Mexico. The Collaborative is part of the U.S. EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

How can I find out more information?
For more information about this project, please contact John Mikulin at U.S. EPA (mikulin.john@epa.gov / 415-972-3956). For more information, on the WCC, please visit our website at www.westcoastcollaborative.org.