



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality: Treasure Valley Clean School Bus Project

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ's) completion of its project to retrofit heavy-duty diesel school buses in Southwest Idaho. This project was implemented using \$481,303 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant funding combined with \$81,292 in State funds.

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### What is the Project?

Retrofitted 231 school buses with Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (DOC) and Closed Crankcase Ventilation (CCV) systems in Treasure Valley, Idaho. Treasure Valley is a region in Southwest Idaho encompassing the five-county Boise Metropolitan Area (Ada, Boise, Canyon, Gem, and Elmore), as well as Payette County and portions of Malheur County in eastern Oregon. In the past, the Treasure Valley experienced air quality problems with PM<sub>10</sub> and carbon monoxide (CO); especially in the winter, due to wood smoke, emissions from unregulated older vehicles, and road dust. In recent years, ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> have become the primary pollutants of concern in the Treasure Valley, with summer-time ozone levels being at, or very near the levels required by National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

### Why is this project important?

Each school day in Idaho, 2,378 buses transport more than 111,000 students. Diesel school buses routinely expose children to particulate matter and other harmful pollutants. Exposure to diesel exhaust has been associated with decreased lung function and retarded lung development and

can also exacerbate the symptoms of asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. This is especially important in Idaho where asthma affects one in ten children and is the number one cause of school absenteeism. This project will reduce children's exposure to diesel emissions as well as the negative health affects associated with exposure.

### What are the Environmental Benefits?

Over the lifetime of the project, the emissions from the 231 affected engines will be reduced by 8 particulate matter (PM) tons, 22 hydrocarbon (HC) tons, 103 carbon monoxide (CO) tons.

### How was this project funded?

The WCC provided \$481,303 in DERA grant funds to support this project. In addition, IDEQ provided leveraged funds totaling \$81,292.

### Who are the Partners on this project?

The project was led by IDEQ, a state agency tasked with ensuring clean air, water, and land in the State of Idaho and protecting state citizens from the adverse health impacts of pollution, in partnership with Treasure Valley school bus fleets. IDEQ received the DERA grant award through the WCC, and distributed the grant funds to the participating fleets. IDEQ was also responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

### What is the Collaborative?

The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, and local government, the private sector, and environmental groups committed to reducing diesel emissions along the West Coast. Partners come from all over Western North America, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Canada, and Mexico. The WCC is part of the U.S. EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC).

[www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel)

### How can I find out more information?

For more information on this project, please contact John Mikulin at U.S. EPA ([mikulin.john@epa.gov](mailto:mikulin.john@epa.gov) / 415-972-3956). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website. [www.westcoastcollaborative.org](http://www.westcoastcollaborative.org)