



The goal of the West Coast Collaborative is to leverage federal funds to strategically reduce emissions from the most polluting diesel sources in impacted communities. The Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and public health by targeting the highest polluting engines with the most cost effective control strategies.

DERA Tribal 2016: Diesel School Bus Replacements in the Gila River Indian Community

The West Coast Collaborative (WCC) is pleased to announce the Gila River Indian Community's (GRIC) receipt of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant to replace two school buses operating in the Sacaton Elementary School District with newer clean diesel models. This project will be implemented using \$154,000 in DERA grant funding combined with \$154,465 in matching funds from GRIC.

What is the Project?

This project will replace two, eligible (pre-2007 engine model) school buses owned by Sacaton Elementary School District (SESD) with similar buses that have 2015 or newer engines.

Why is this project important?

Exposure to diesel exhaust has been associated with decreased lung function and can also exacerbate the symptoms of asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. This project will reduce human exposure to diesel emissions as well as the negative health effects associated with exposure. The vehicles to be replaced under this project operate within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, which faces significant air quality challenges and remains in non-attainment for ozone and particulate matter.

What are the Environmental Benefits?

Over the remaining lifetime of the two affected engines, these replacements are projected to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) by 0.4 tons, and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 0.04 tons. Additionally, the reduction of PM2.5 emissions will reduce black carbon (BC), which influences climate by directly absorbing light, reducing the reflectivity ("albedo") of snow and ice through deposition, and interacting with clouds.

Who are the Partners on this project?

The project will be administered by the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality. GRIC will administer the grant funds with project partner Sacaton Elementary School District. GRIC will be responsible for data monitoring and reporting for the project.

What is the Collaborative?

The WCC is an ambitious partnership between leaders from federal, state, local, and tribal 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: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the Pacific Islands, Canada and Mexico. The WCC is part of the US EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign (www.epa.gov/cleandiesel).

How can I find out more information?

For more information on this project, please contact Francisco Dóñez at US EPA (donez.francisco@epa.gov or 213-244-1834). For more information on the WCC, please visit our website. www.westcoastcollaborative.org