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Sacramento AQMD Unveils Nation's Largest Zero-Emission Electric School Bus Deployment

SACRAMENTO – The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and its partners today unveiled the largest electric school bus deployment in the United States.

Twenty-nine new electric school buses will serve students throughout Sacramento County. The buses' routes run primarily through disadvantaged communities, reducing air pollution from diesel exhaust in these neighborhoods and helping to protect children's health.

The electric buses will serve students in three local school districts:

- Twin Rivers Unified School District
- Sacramento City Unified School District
- Elk Grove Unified School District

Twin Rivers Unified's electric fleet is currently in operation. Electric buses will begin operation in Sacramento City Unified and Elk Grove Unified in the coming months.

“Switching to zero-emission school buses protects residents, especially children, from the harmful effects of diesel exhaust while reducing our carbon footprint,” said Larry Greene, Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD's Executive Director. “There's more work to do, especially in our most disadvantaged communities. But this project is a shining example of what we can accomplish to make the air cleaner for Sacramentans.”

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) provided \$7.5 million in competitive grant funding to help pay for the project. CARB offered the grant through California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities. The project partners contributed a combination of cash and in-kind matching funds totaling \$6.9 million.

Valuable partners on the project include First Priority GreenFleet, Motiv Power Systems, EV Connect, California Strategies, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Phil Haupt Electric, Lion Bus, Trans Tech and Kisensum.

“The fleet of electric school buses we are unveiling today, is additional proof that zero-emission transportation is growing rapidly in California,” said CARB’s Executive Officer, Richard W. Corey. “These zero emission school buses will help to improve the air quality in areas where our children study and play.”

In addition to reducing diesel exhaust in the neighborhoods the new electric buses serve, the fleet upgrades will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project also includes the ability for participating school districts to loan the electric buses to other school systems in an effort to promote the shift to zero-emission fleets. Multiple school districts have already expressed an interest in testing out the new buses.

The Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD protects air quality on behalf of the residents of Sacramento County. For more information, visit airquality.org. For information about funding opportunities for clean cars, trucks and buses, visit Moving California at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ict/movingca.htm>.

California Climate Investments

The Sacramento electric school bus deployment is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap and trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged and low-income communities. For more information, visit <http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/>.