



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS & MEDIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: South Bay Cities Council of Governments

FROM: South Coast AQMD

SUBJECT: South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)
Agency Updates

South Coast AQMD Updates

[AB 617 Clean Community School Initiative – \\$30 Million Available for Zero-Emission School Buses](#)

On February 6, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board approved \$30 million in incentive funding to support the replacement of older school buses with zero-emission models and to install supporting charging infrastructure in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

The AB 617 Clean Community School Initiative is an incentive-based program specifically for privately-owned school bus operators contracted with public school districts located within the boundaries of an [existing AB 617 Community](#), [Consistently Nominated Communities](#) (CNCs), and Disadvantaged Communities.

The program will help reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM10), improving air quality around schools and along bus routes. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution impacts, and zero-emission school buses contribute to healthier learning environments and long-term public health benefits.

Eligibility Highlights:

Existing buses must be diesel-, compressed natural gas-, or propane-fueled



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GVWR greater than 8,501 pounds

Must meet CARB Truck and Bus Regulation requirements

Continuous CHP safety certification required

Existing buses must be dismantled upon replacement

Replacement buses must be CARB-certified zero-emission vehicles in the same weight class (unless otherwise approved) and maintain valid CHP certification for the duration of the contract.

Application Deadline: April 7, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

More information and application materials are available at:

www.aqmd.gov/cleancommunityschools

Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions Program

The South Coast AQMD Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) Program, Rule 2305, applies to approximately 4,000 large warehouses. This rule provides several compliance pathways to address warehouse-related emissions, including a mitigation fee option. The WAIRE Mitigation Program will make funding available from the mitigation fees collected with the goal of reducing nitrogen oxides (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions at warehouses and the surrounding communities where fees were paid.

Join the WAIRE Mitigation Program webinar On Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. to learn how mitigation fees will fund projects reducing warehouse emissions and provide input. Visit aqmd.gov for more details.

Compliance Training Courses Available Through South Coast AQMD

Compliance assistance training is provided by South Coast AQMD to enhance understanding of applicable air quality regulations, introduce new control technologies and assist industry with achieving and maintaining compliance with federal, state, and local clean air requirements.

Classroom Instruction

South Coast AQMD offers a variety of courses that provide participants with the opportunity to interact with South Coast AQMD compliance staff, learn more about existing and upcoming air



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quality regulations applicable to their industry and resources to assist industry in achieving their clean air goals. Each course is taught by experienced inspectors or other specialists with extensive knowledge of the equipment, processes and regulatory requirements associated with each topic.

Courses currently being offered by South Coast AQMD include:

- [Asbestos Demolition & Renovation](#) (Rule 1403)
- [Certified Person](#) (Rules 463 & 1178)
- [Certified Inspector --Sumps and Wastewater Separators](#) (Rule 1176)
- [Controlling Fugitive Dust](#) (Rule 403 & 403.1)
- [Gasoline Transfer & Dispensing](#) (Rule 461)
- [Hexavalent Chromium](#) (Rule 1469)
- [Combustion Gas Portable Analyzer Training & Certification](#) (Rules 1146, 1146.1 & 1110.2)
- [Employee Transportation Coordinator \(ETC\) Training](#) (Rule 2202)

Due to the popularity of this training, all classes require pre-registration; no walk-in registration is available.

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