

The Partnership

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November 20, 2008

James D. Boyd
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Transportation Committee

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Associate Member
Transportation Committee

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 08-ALT-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Docket Number 08-ALT-1 – AB 118 Implementation

Please review the attached Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program proposal for AB118 funding consideration under Docket Number 08-ALT-1. Please call me at 310-384-4804 or e-mail me at tanna@the-partnership.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,


Tanna Manford
The Partnership
Clean Cities Co-Coordinator
310-384-4804

**The Partnership & SoCal Clean Cities Announce
The California Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program**

**Clean Air Buses for Schools (CABS)
Project Proposal for AB118 AQIP CEC Funding Opportunity**

Docket Number: 08-ALT-1

CABS is a cooperative partnership established to aid school districts along with California's Air Districts in securing match funds, such as ARB \$25,000 matching funds needed to qualify for ARB bus replacement programs. In Addition, CABS also provides a contract program to administer additional funding allocations being considered under the AB118 CEC AQIP investment plan, to allocate and manage additional match funds and/or funding for school districts that do not qualify for existing funding programs, but can demonstrate the need for funding to replace aging diesel school buses with new 'clean fuel' buses that meet 2010 emission standards.

Mutual Outreach and support with Air Districts, ARB and CEC are major components of the CABS Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program, as each of the bus replacement programs requires matching funds as well as educational outreach regarding each of the bus replacement programs. CABS will partner with private businesses, civic organizations and government partners willing to provide sponsorship funding and support to administer the CABS program. Dissemination of CABS funding statewide will be based on ARB's Lower-Emission School Bus Program Established Funding Allocations to assure all schools can participate in the program.

Private Funding for CABS will also play a major role in funding and promotions for the Adopt-A-School Bus Program. In an era when corporate firms are examining their own carbon footprints, pending cap and trade policies, and energy efficiency practices, CABS offers private business the opportunity to create community good will with a creative marketing and public relations tool, that not only assists school districts at a time of shrinking budgets, it also improves air quality and advances a healthier environment for children and their communities.

Our Mission ~Assist the state in replacing pre 1977 and pre 1986 school busses statewide by helping school districts with funding to green their school bus fleet, while advancing 2013 compliance of pending ARB On Road Heavy Duty Engine Emission Program Rules; expand The Partnership's education outreach within communities, while empowering schools with support and funding for cleaner and safer pupil transportation objectives.

Roles:

The Partnership – Established in 1994, is a public purpose, nonprofit 501(c) 4 corporation with the mission to develop and implement strategies and programs that accelerate the growth of advanced transportation technologies. The Partnership administers the Southern California Clean Cities program, works closely with transportation and transit agencies, federal, state and local government, air quality agencies and the private sector in the implementation and operation of various strategies that play a role of improving air quality, reducing congestion and improving transportation system performance.

- CABS Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program Administration
- Outreach and Education to School Districts, Students and Communities
- Obtain Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program Agreements with School District
- Management of sponsorship funds
- Tracking and accounting in collaboration with schools and Air Districts
- Dissemination of Match Funds to school bus vendors once proof of vehicle scrapping is received
- Reporting

GSI and Associates, Inc.

- Attract Program Sponsors and Partnerships
- CABS RFP Sponsor Solicitation
- Sponsorship Funding Commitment Agreement
- Policy and Technical Assistance

CEC, ARB and Local Air Districts

- Program Assistance (interface) to Replace “targeted” Older Buses
- Accelerate School Bus Emission Reductions
- Reduce Consumption of Petroleum Fuels
- Provide Support and Outreach in a Collaborative Effort with Government Program

Program Benefits**Participation Benefits for Schools**

- Attain new clean fuel buses at little or no cost
- Accelerate the replacement of aging diesel buses with clean fuel buses
- Assist school districts with fleet compliance of pending Diesel Rules
- Improved air quality for students, school district staff and the community
- Improved children’s health with cleaner fuel buses
- Improve School Bus Safety with New Busses that meet updated Safety Standards
- A cleaner environment that advances Environmental Justice policies
- Healthier children means fewer absences, more attentive learners and more smiles
- Increase community relationships and industry partnerships

Participation Benefits for Business, Corporate, and Community Sponsors

Option to Create Corporate Sponsor Good Will Marketing Program Benefits:

- Public Relation Tools (create marketing and advertising outreach programs to generate good will)
- Improved air quality in your market areas
- Provide Assistance for schools and healthier children
- Fewer employee absences taking care of sick children helps businesses and families
- Civic Pride and Community Partnership Building
- Improve PR efforts with Regulators, School Districts, Community Leaders and Consumers
- Tax Incentive Benefits
- *Possible ERC options*
- Recognition as an environmental steward and clean community neighbor
- Improved Customer Relations and Customer Appeal
- Positive Press coverage and green publicity
- Logos and Branding Programs:
 - Sponsor Created Images and Logos will appear on The Partnership's/CABS/Clean Cities Website, which gets 3000+ hits a month.
 - Logos may be placed on Products, Promotional Items, and Approved School and Government materials, websites...etc.
 - Create Recognition programs through community outreach and PR programs, plaques or marquees at schools, school boards, and superintendents' offices, booster clubs, civic clubs, local business, and promotional advertising...etc.
 - Ability to create in-house marketing and RR programs

CABS / California Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program – The Partnership Administration

The process for obtaining Air District/AQMD Lower Emission School Bus Program funds and California Adopt-A-School Bus Match Program funds is as follows:

- School District fills out application for ARB allocated Air District funds and also completes application for CABS funds
- Air District verifies eligibility and approves application
- Air District and School District enter into a contract that identifies buses to be scrapped
- School District provides The Partnership administration with a copy of executed contract
- CABS program administration (The Partnership) provides School District with signed approval for matching funds
- School District contacts bus vendor to order new buses (shows Air Districts/CABS approval paperwork as promissory for funding)
- School District contacts wrecking company to coordinate delivery of old buses in conjunction with delivery of replacement vehicles from vendor
- AFV Vendor delivers buses to school district and obtains receipt from school district
- School District obtains CHP certification to put buses on the road
- School District releases old buses and receives crushing certificate for bus and engine
- AFV Vendor invoices Air District and CABS for funds
- Air District pays vendor invoice once all paperwork for proof of vehicle delivery and certificate for crushed vehicle are obtained.
- The Partnership administration pays invoice once all paperwork for proof of vehicle delivery and certificate for crushed vehicle are provided to The Partnership.
- The Partnership administration provides financial reports to funding partners