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AGC Leads Industry Efforts to Clean Up the Air

Over 400 concerned industry representatives attended the California Air Resources Board meeting in San Diego last month to voice opposition to the Board’s proposed language concerning off-road diesel engine regulations. CARB will next meet on July 26 in Sacramento.

These industry speakers support efforts to clean emissions from their equipment but the solutions must be technologically feasible and economically possible. Under the current proposal the financial burden falls on contractors, not manufacturers.

Industry representatives provided comments contending that a threefold approach was needed:

▪ **More Time:** Extend the compliance period past 2009 with an additional five years to allow VDEC, Tier 3 and Tier 4 technologies to work their way into the market. At this time, the technology is not available.

▪ **More Money:** If it is good public policy to control these emissions, it is good public policy to enact investment tax credits, remove Carl Moyer Program restrictions and other state-sponsored incentives. CARB indicated the proposed regulations would cost the industry $3.4 billion while an industry-wide survey indicated the cost to the construction is closer to $13 billion. This financial burden would fall completely to contractors.

▪ **More Flexibility:** AGC and the construction industry want to be part of the solution and help with cleaner air. The industry proposed that the rule set strict standards for compliance spread over 18 years and give individual operations autonomy over the approach to meet them.

AGC continues to meet with the CARB staff and policy makers, public officials, legislators, and the Governor. In a series of meetings with the Governor, AGC provided information on the effect the regulations would have with the infrastructure bond measures passed last year, the effect it would have on small businesses, and the industry overall. AGC will continue to work toward clean air along side other interested state and federal officials.

AGC of California, along with CIAQC (Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition), is sponsoring an educational website regarding this issue (www.buildacleanerca.org).

For more information on how to get involved, contact John Hakel at: hakelj@agc-ca.org or (626) 508-5800.
The Associated General Contractors of California is the largest statewide construction trade association in California. Founded in 1920, AGC represents more than 1,200 leading firms of general contractors, specialty-contracting, service providers and suppliers. Visit the AGC of California web site at [www.agc-ca.org](http://www.agc-ca.org).