



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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

NEWS

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SCAQMD Approves \$90.7 Million Zero-Emission Truck Demonstration

The South Coast Air Quality Management District today approved one of its largest-ever technology demonstration projects, a \$90.7 million initiative to develop and deploy up to 23 battery-electric big-rig trucks as well as zero-emission off-road equipment, electric chargers and solar energy infrastructure.

“We are very pleased to be working with Volvo and their partners to help jump-start the green truck revolution in the Southland,” said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD’s executive officer. “Trucks are the No. 1 source of smog-forming emissions in our region and this program has the potential to help transform the goods movement system in our region to zero-emissions.”

The battery-electric trucks will be used to shuttle freight between the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and Southland warehouse facilities. Up to five demonstration sites will be used, currently proposed for Chino, Fontana, Ontario, La Mirada and Placentia.

In addition to the trucks, the program will develop and deploy:

- Up to 29 off-road battery-electric vehicles to load and unload containers at warehouses and freight facilities;
- Up to 58 rapid vehicle chargers; and
- Up to 1.9 megawatts of solar panels connected to the vehicle chargers.

The project, known as Volvo LIGHTS, follows a [\\$31.3 million project launched earlier this year](#) with Daimler Trucks North America. That effort will develop and demonstrate 20 heavy-duty battery-electric trucks, seven of which will be deployed at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Daimler and Volvo are the first- and second-largest truck manufacturers in North America, respectively. Securing major commitments from the two leading truck manufacturers for zero-emission truck demonstrations and deployments is a crucial step to converting today’s diesel truck fleet to zero- or near zero-emissions.

SCAQMD initiated the Volvo LIGHTS zero-emission truck project last summer when it applied for and secured a preliminary award of \$44.8 million from the California Air Resources Board, funded by the state's Low Carbon Transportation Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Volvo and its 16 partners will contribute \$41.7 million to the project. SCAQMD is committing \$4 million. In addition, the University of California, Riverside's College of Engineering - Center for Environmental Research and Technology will contribute \$200,000 to help fund vehicle testing and data collection during the project.

"Many disadvantaged and environmental justice communities are close to freeways, ports and railways and are disproportionately impacted by diesel truck emissions," Nastri said. "This demonstration will help reduce diesel emissions in those communities."

About the Volvo LIGHTS award:

The California Air Resources Board has preliminarily awarded \$44.8 million dollars to the SCAQMD for a Zero- And Near-Zero-Emissions Freight Facilities project. The ZANZEFF project will develop and demonstrate zero-emissions heavy-duty trucks, freight handling equipment, EV infrastructure and renewable energy. The ZANZEFF project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative 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.

About SCAQMD:

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. In spite of dramatic progress in recent decades in improving air quality, Southern California still has some of the worst air pollution in the nation.

This year, the region violated federal health-based standards for ground-level ozone, commonly known as summertime smog, on more than 140 days. The South Coast Air Basin is classified as a severe non-attainment area under the federal Clean Air Act and could face draconian regulatory and economic sanctions if the region does not meet federal air quality standards by 2023 and 2031.

Under SCAQMD's clean air blueprint -- the [2016 Air Quality Management Plan](#) -- SCAQMD needs to acquire funding of \$1 billion or more every year for the next 14 years to meet federal clean air deadlines. This funding is needed to achieve emission reductions by incentivizing businesses to replace older, dirtier equipment – particularly big-rig trucks – with newer, cleaner models.

Since the beginning of 2016, SCAQMD has secured nearly \$400 million in funding for cleaner trucks, school buses and other heavy-duty equipment. Most of these vehicles and equipment have been deployed in environmental justice communities, which have a disproportionate burden of air pollution.

SCAQMD is pursuing a broad range of strategies at the local, state and federal level to secure additional funding so that all Southern Californians can breathe clean air.