

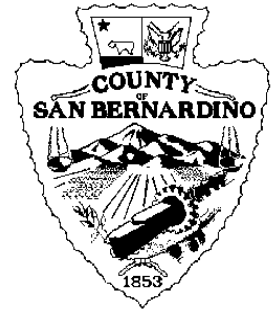
NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 6, 2009



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County Ordinance Aims to Curb Diesel Exhaust

SAN BERNARDINO – A County of San Bernardino ordinance that takes effect this month aims to cut diesel exhaust by limiting how long diesel-powered equipment and vehicles can idle when off the road.

The ordinance, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December, limits off-road idling of diesel equipment and vehicles to five minutes in unincorporated areas. In addition, the ordinance requires diesel equipment and vehicle operators to use reformulated, ultra-low sulfur diesel.

According to a study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, diesel trucks built between 1980 and 2001 emit about 144 grams of nitrogen oxide per hour and 8,224 grams of carbon dioxide per hour when idling. In addition, the California Air Resources Board has identified diesel engine particulate as a toxic air contaminant because of its potential to cause cancer, premature death, and other health problems.

The County ordinance also requires new distribution centers, truck stops, warehouses and other facilities where diesel trucks may idle for long periods to provide electrical connections for the vehicles.

“This new ordinance mirrors some of the diesel exhaust rules imposed by local air districts, but it takes it a step further by giving the County the power to take enforcement action when these important air quality rules are ignored,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said.

The ordinance becomes effective on Jan. 16. Residents can call County Code Enforcement at (800) 722-3181 to report violations.

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