

April 19, 2021

Mr. Johnny Bhullar
Executive Secretary
California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
1120 N Street, MS 36, Room 4500
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: Request for CTCDC Approval of Adding a Phone Number to Existing Sign

Dear Mr. Bhullar:

California Air Resources Board (CARB) requests the CTCDC's approval to add a phone number to existing CalTrans No Idling road signs (SR 63 (CA); Attachment 2).

PURPOSE

These enhanced No Idling road signs will be installed on roadways in areas throughout California where there are idling concerns for heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses. These signs may be placed within 100 feet of sensitive receptors, like daycares, schools, senior care facilities, hospitals, and residential neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND

In response to Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617), CARB collaborated with other agencies to identify several communities in California who are most impacted by air pollution. During the AB 617-required community emissions reduction plan (CERP) development process, several communities expressed concerns over the amount of truck idling in their neighborhoods and requested enforcement action in their CERPs. Some communities specifically requested contact information be added to the current CalTrans-approved No Idling road signs (SR 63 (CA)) to better request enforcement action by the appropriate agencies responsible for enforcing the No Idling regulation (See enclosed excerpt in Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

We would like to keep the design the same but add a phone number at the bottom for people to report violators directly to CARB or local law enforcement agencies (See enclosed mock-up of sign in Attachment 3). For example, signs located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District might list their phone number: 1-800-CUT-SMOG, CARB's phone number: 1-800-END-SMOG, or another local law enforcement agency's number. Signs located elsewhere in the state might list CARB's phone number: 1-800-END-SMOG, or another local law enforcement agency's number. Putting this contact information on the signs will foster a more direct and swift response to community concerns about idling in these areas.

SUMMARY

CARB is enhancing its enforcement efforts in the AB 617 communities to address community concerns, such as conducting more comprehensive inspections into idling inspections to ensure compliance with all CARB's regulations. Additional strategies include educational outreach, rerouting trucks, and greening projects to help separate the community from idling trucks. Adding a phone number for people to call will help expedite the enforcement process and ensure the appropriate law enforcement agency is notified.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 229-0750 or by email at Warren.Hawkins@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Warren Hawkins

Warren Hawkins, Manager
Community Outreach Enforcement Section
Enforcement Division
California Air Resources Board

Attachments:

1. Southeast Los Angeles CERP excerpt
2. Originally approved No Idling road sign (SR 63 (CA))
3. Mock-up of proposed No Idling road sign

Attachment 1. Southeast Los Angeles CERP excerpt

The excerpt below from the South East Los Angeles CERP provides the action and timeline to reduce emissions or exposure to emissions from idling trucks.¹ The South East Los Angeles area community includes the cities of Bell Gardens, Huntington Park, South Gate, Maywood, Cudahy, and the unincorporated areas of Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, Bell, and Vernon.

Community (District)	Action	Timeline	Page Number
South East Los Angeles (South Coast Air Quality Management District)	Collaborate with the CSC to identify and prioritize "No Idling" sign placement in the SELA community. CARB to coordinate with South Coast AQMD, land-use agencies, school districts, and law enforcement agencies to install and enforce "No Idling" signs. Signs will include CARB and South Coast AQMD's contact information and roles in enforcing heavy-duty truck idling regulations.	Start: 3 rd quarter, 2021 End: 4 th quarter, 2022	5b-3

¹ (2020) *Southeast Los Angeles Community Emissions Reduction Plan*. Available at: www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ab-617-ab-134/steering-committees/southeast-los-angeles/final-cerp/final-cerp.pdf?sfvrsn=9

Attachment 2. Previously CalTrans-approved No Idling road sign (SR 63 (CA))



Attachment 3. Mock-up of proposed sign



Note: Depending on sign location, the phone number listed might be 1-800-CUT-SMOG, 1-800-END-SMOG, or another law enforcement agency's contact number.