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For immediate release
Contact: Sheila Storm or Colleen Crowninshield, 792-1093

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards $150,000 grant to PAG/Tucson Clean Cities for bus replacement in 3 school districts

School children in the Amphitheater Public School District, the Marana Unified School District and the Chandler Unified School District will be breathing easier in the near future.

Pima Association of Governments/Tucson Clean Cities is among the 14 recipients who will receive a portion of $2.2 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Act grants, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and West Coast Collaborative announced on Thursday, Dec. 19.

PAG and its Clean Cities program will receive $150,000 to replace six heavy-duty diesel school buses with four compressed natural gas and two propane buses. Over the remaining life of the six affected engines, these upgrades are estimated to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 10.3 tons, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 0.41 tons, hydrocarbons (HC) by 0.75 tons, carbon monoxide (CO) by 3.3 tons and carbon dioxide (CO2) by 210 tons.

"The school districts have started researching their vehicle purchasing options and anticipate rolling out the new buses early in 2014," said Tucson Clean Cities Manager Colleen Crowninshield.

The project will be implemented using the grant funding and $805,118 in bond funds from the participating school districts toward the purchase of the buses.

The 14 grants are administered through the West Coast Collaborative, an EPA Region 9 and Region 10 public-private partnership aimed at reducing diesel emissions and leveraging an additional $6 million from public, private and nonprofit partners.

"Public-private partnerships like the West Coast Collaborative continue to advance emission reductions," said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for EPA's Pacific Southwest Office. “By
promoting clean diesel technologies, we can save lives locally and play a leadership role on climate change globally.”

_Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, watershed and air quality. PAG’s staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit www.PAGregion.com for more information or www.facebook.com/PAGregion_

_Clean Cities is a voluntary program of the U.S. Department of Energy to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel, accelerate the use of alternative fuel vehicles and build a local refueling infrastructure for these vehicles._

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