AIRPORT VEHICLE REBATE PROGRAM

Introduction

The California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), in partnership with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA), Miramar College, and SANDAG, will be launching a new clean vehicle rebate program for licensed ground transportation providers at the San Diego International Airport. The Airport Vehicle Rebate Program (AVRP) will be a technology-neutral program that will provide $750,000 in incentives toward the purchase of alternative fuel and energy-efficient vehicles.

SDCRAA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Attorney General that requires the airport to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions on the ground and air sides of the airport. The AVRP will be complimentary to existing airport programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions from licensed ground transportation providers. The role of SANDAG is to provide regional coordination in support of alternative fuel infrastructure and planning, inform local jurisdictions including their fleet operators about this program, and help determine whether an expanded or similar program would benefit other public and/or private fleets across the San Diego region.

CCSE has been holding program development meetings with the SDCRAA, the airport’s ground transportation service providers, and other regional stakeholders in preparation for the program launch, which is planned for June 2011. Staff will present an overview of the proposed rebate program. CTAC is asked to provide feedback at its meeting on April 7, 2011.

Discussion

CCSE developed the AVRP in collaboration with the SDCRAA and commercial vehicle fleet stakeholders, who collectively operate over 1,500 ground transportation service vehicles at the San Diego International Airport. The AVRP is expected to result in over $2.2 million in private investment for alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure, as well as establish a platform for possible additional grant funding and/or eligible vehicle providers.

CCSE is administering this program through a grant from the Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) Settlement Fund, which was created as a result of an antitrust class action. The purpose of the RFG Fund is to achieve clean air and fuel efficiency benefits for California consumers. Under the terms of the grant agreement, $750,000 in rebates has been allocated to implement a vehicle rebate program serving transportation providers operating at the San Diego International Airport. An
additional $75,000 has been allocated for education, training, and outreach conducted by Miramar College and SANDAG. By the program’s mid-point, SANDAG will work closely with CCSE to assess program benefits and barriers, possible course corrections, and potential for continuing or expanding a clean vehicle rebate program for public and/or private fleets throughout the San Diego region.

The AVRP Web site is www.energycenter.org/avrp.

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