

California Clean Cars Campaign

Global Warming Solutions for a Healthy California

www.calcleancars.org

American Lung Association
of California

Bluewater Network

California League of
Conservation Voters

California Public Interest
Research Group

Center for Energy Efficiency
and Renewable
Technologies

Coalition for Clean Air

Environment California

Environmental Defense

Natural Resources Defense
Council

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Foundation

Union of Concerned
Scientists

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California Vehicle Global Warming Law

In 2002, California passed a law that will reduce the impact of the state's biggest source of global warming pollution: passenger vehicles. This landmark law—Assembly Bill 1493—requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to adopt regulations that achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases emitted by passenger vehicles.

Details of the law:

- ◆ **Covers new non-commercial vehicles, starting in 2009:** The regulations would apply to new motor vehicles starting with year 2009 models, including cars, pickups, minivans, SUVs, and any other vehicles whose primary use is noncommercial personal transportation.
- ◆ **ARB must decide on standards by January 1, 2005:** The law requires ARB to develop and adopt the standards; planning and development will finish in late 2004.
- ◆ **Gives credit to auto manufacturers that reduce emissions early:** The law requires ARB to grant emissions credits for global warming pollution reductions from passenger vehicles achieved before 2009, using the 2000 model year as the baseline for calculating those reductions.
- ◆ **Considers economic impacts:** AB 1493 requires the ARB to consider the economic impact the regulations may have on the state, including creation of jobs and businesses, expansion or elimination of existing businesses, ability of businesses to compete with businesses in other states, and the ability to maintain and attract businesses in communities with the most significant exposure to air contaminants, including communities with minority populations or low-income populations or both.
- ◆ **Gives industry flexibility:** To give industry the opportunity to use the most cost-effective strategies, the law requires the regulations to provide flexibility in the means by which auto manufacturers or other regulated entities comply with the regulations.
- ◆ **Assures continued vehicle and transportation choices for consumers:** The law prohibits the ARB from requiring additional fees and taxes on any motor vehicle, fuel, or vehicle miles traveled. The ARB also cannot ban the sale of any vehicle category or require a reduction in vehicle weight, speed limit, or vehicle miles traveled. In addition, the law prohibits the regulations from imposing mandatory trip reduction measures or land use restrictions.

- ◆ **Covers a range of global warming pollutants:** The law requires that the regulation developed by ARB include all global warming pollutants as defined by the state, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons.
- ◆ **Allows substitution of equivalent federal global warming pollution standard:** If federal standards of equivalent or greater effectiveness are adopted in the same timeframe, ARB may elect to adopt the federal global warming pollution standard.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

Before ARB can adopt the regulations it must seek public input. ARB staff has led several workshops, starting with a review of the emissions inventory in December 2002, a technology symposium in March 2003, a workshop on standards and economics in September 2003, a workshop on alternative compliance strategies in October 2003, and a board update in November 2003. This year, ARB held an environmental justice workshop in February and a technology assessment workshop in April. Future regulatory steps include the following:

- ◆ Environmental Justice Workshops
 - July 6 in Oakland
 - July 8 in Fresno
 - July 13 in Pacoima
- ◆ Regulatory Workshop
 - July 7 in Sacramento
- ◆ Final Staff Proposal
 - Released by August 6
- ◆ Board Action
 - September 2004 – ARB Board adopts final staff proposal

Once the regulations are finalized, ARB must report to the legislature and the governor on the content of the regulations by January 1, 2005. The regulations will not take effect until January 1, 2006, to give the legislature time for review.

July 2004