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ENGINE MANUFACTURERS CALL FOR THE USE OF CLEAN DIESEL VEHICLES IN FLEET RULINGS

Chicago (June 16, 2000) – The Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) today voiced serious concerns with proposed South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rulings that would require government owned or contracted truck and bus fleets to purchase new alternative-fueled vehicles such as those powered by natural gas. If adopted, these rulings would essentially limit the choice of these fleets from selecting vehicles with cleaner diesel fueled or diesel-based hybrid engines.

"EMA and its members are actively pursuing dramatic improvements in the emission performance of heavy-duty diesel fueled engines," said Glenn Keller, EMA Executive Director. "EMA believes that the best course of action is to develop a level playing field based on setting low emission targets that allow fleet operators the choice of the most cost-effective technologies – regardless of fuel type."

In addition to concerns about limiting technology and fuel neutrality, the engine makers also noted that the proposed rulings attempt to establish new controls beyond the scope of the District's authority. According to Keller, the South Coast proposals contradict the regulatory boundaries established in the federal Clean Air Act. "These federal safeguards were established to prevent every air district from developing unique vehicle requirements that would lead to a 'patchwork quilt' of different rules and limitations across the state."

EMA remains committed to helping the Board and staff create a workable, costeffective and legal program for reducing fleet emissions in the South Coast. "But as we have pointed out previously, banning entire categories of engines and vehicles, and restricting technology choices does not constitute a proactive solution," added Keller.

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EMA is a trade association representing worldwide manufacturers of internal combustion engines for all application except passenger cars and aircraft. The EMA continues to work with government and industry stakeholders to help the nation achieve its goals of cleaner fuels, more efficient engines and cleaner air. For more information contact Anne Rukavina at (312) 644-6610 x3393 or visit our website at www.engine-manufacturers.org