



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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East Los Angeles Schools to Receive Air Filtration Units to Reduce Indoor Air Pollution

The South Coast Air Quality Management District's Governing Board has approved \$250,000 to replace high performance air filters and upgrade the existing air filtration systems at Resurrection Church Elementary School and Bishop Mora Salesian High School. The project also will add a new air filtration system to Plaza Community Services Center's daycare facility in East Los Angeles. The air filtration systems remove more than 90 percent of ultrafine particulate matter produced by nearby vehicle traffic.

"Exposure to traffic-related air pollution has been linked to a variety of short- and long-term health effects, including asthma, reduced lung function, impaired lung development in children, and cardiovascular effects in adults," said Wayne Nastri, executive officer of the SCAQMD. "School-aged children spend about 30 percent of their day in classrooms and these filters minimize the concentration of particulates and air toxics that can enter their classrooms from outdoor air pollution sources, especially from heavy traffic and diesel trucks."

The funds are part of a settlement agreement between SCAQMD and Brenntag Pacific, a cleaning product maker and distributor located at 3629 Union Pacific Ave. in Boyle Heights. Resurrection Church Elementary School and Bishop Mora Salesian High School received their air filtration systems in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The air filtration system for Plaza Community Services Center will be installed later this year.

SCAQMD first pioneered the use of classroom air filtration systems during a 2008 pilot study demonstrating their effectiveness. Then, the technology was rigorously tested and demonstrated in partnership with the University of California, Riverside's Center for Environmental Research and Technology in a performance evaluation of 15 air filtration technologies from manufacturers throughout the United States.

Since then, SCAQMD has directed \$13 million in funding from penalty settlements and mitigation fees to install classroom air filters in 72 schools and related facilities across the Southland.

"While we are focused on doing all we can to clean up our transportation fleet, we are also taking advantage of opportunities to prevent and reduce localized exposure to vehicle emissions, such as school air filtration projects," said Nastri.

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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