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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LRAPA helps establish local non-profit to benefit air quality

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, which established an innovative program to reduce long-haul truck diesel emissions along the I-5 corridor, is spinning off its program to a new non-profit organization. Doing so will enable the program to expand on a regional basis, offering emission reduction strategies to long-haul diesel truck owners along the entire West Coast.

On Thursday, June 22, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will recognize the new non-profit, named Cascade Sierra Solutions, and the partnership that made it happen, at 11:00 AM as part of the Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities “Efficient Diesel Workshop” being held in Portland.

With more than \$5 million in capital, Cascade Sierra Solutions will expand LRAPA’s program to include a number of fuel-saving/emission reduction upgrades, including engine idle reduction technologies, improved aerodynamics, and exhaust after-treatment devices. The Oregon Department of Transportation’s Transportation Infrastructure Bank, the Oregon Department of Energy and the EPA have committed the financial assistance to develop the regional lease-to-own program.

LRAPA started its “Everybody Wins” lease-to-own program in 2004, offering fuel-saving auxiliary power units (APU) to truck owners. The APUs allow a truck’s main engine to be shut down, while maintaining power for cab necessities such as heat and air conditioning. The units reduce emissions and fuel consumption from idling by as much as 75 percent.

LRAPA will continue to implement its current program until available funding is exhausted, projected around November. At that time, the program will be transitioned over to Cascade Sierra Solutions. The new non-profit will be headquartered in Coburg, with showcase centers in Washington, Oregon and California, and will offer fuel- and emission-saving technologies to truck owners.

The EPA SmartWay Transport Program has developed truck upgrade kits and is using LRAPA’s success as a model for use at the centers. The upgrades include technologies that reduce nitrogen oxides emissions by up to 25 percent, and exhaust after-treatment devices that reduce particulate emissions by 25 to 90 percent, depending upon technology type. EPA is encouraging other major transportation corridor partners around the country to develop similar program strategies as well.

For more information about the Efficient Diesel Workshop and Cascade Sierra Solutions announcement, visit www.cwcleancities.org.

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