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## AQMD OKs \$36M for trucks

**Environment: Clean rigs for ports will be purchased with funds.**

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LONG BEACH - Air quality officials Friday approved \$36 million for an anti-pollution measure that would help truckers replace dirty diesel rigs operating in and around the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Funding will be spread out over five years and complements \$166 million the ports have pledged to reduce emissions from the port trucking industry. and the ports will work out how the money will be distributed. They anticipate funding will be available in 2007.

AQMD board members approved the funds at their monthly meeting, held this time in Long Beach City Council Chambers.

The estimated 12,000 heavy-duty diesel trucks operating around the ports daily are linked to increased risk of cancer, asthma and other illness for drivers, port workers and residents.

"We hope to reduce the health risk to these communities by helping to defray the cost of purchasing new, cleaner trucks," said AQMD Board Chairman William A. Burke.

AQMD, which oversees air pollution control for much of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, will use state grants to fund the truck program.

Friday's allocation is in addition to \$12 million AQMD committed earlier this year to truck fleet modernization.

Half of the \$12 million will be for liquified natural gas (LNG) trucks, with the remaining \$6 million for subsidized new trucks, which can cost \$150,000 or more.

Authorities estimate costs to replace all older diesel trucks in the ports are at least \$2 billion.

Also at Friday's meeting, an AQMD Marine Port Subcommittee was established to oversee air quality programs in the twin ports, which comprise the nation's largest seaport.

Long Beach City Councilwoman and Governing Board Member Tonia Reyes Uranga will chair the subcommittee.

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