



DATE: January 15, 2009

MEMO TO: Department of Public Works

FROM: Matt Machado, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Diesel Vehicle Idling Policy

---

## **PURPOSE**

The Air Resources Board's in-use off road diesel vehicle regulation (the regulation) contains a limit on unnecessary idling. The regulation states: "No vehicle or engines subject to this regulation may idle for more that 5 consecutive minutes." This limit applies to all off-road diesel vehicles subject to the regulation, unless the vehicle is idling for specific circumstances defined in the regulation or a waiver has been granted. The idling limits are effective and enforceable as of June 15, 2008, when the regulation became effective under California law.

The ARB also prohibits idling for more than 5 minutes of a diesel-fueled motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight (GVWR) greater than 10,000 pounds at any location, and may not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) for more than 5 minutes at any location within 100 feet of a restricted area (residences).

Please contact Mel Eslinger at 209-525-4139 for more information if this policy is unclear or you have additional questions.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to operators of all self-propelled diesel-fueled vehicles 25 horsepower and up that were not designed to be driven on-road and diesel vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds owned or rented/leased to the Department of Public Works. All operators shall receive a copy of this Policy and shall sign a written acknowledgement that they have received and read the Policy. A copy of this acknowledgement shall be placed in the employee's official personnel file.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

The idling limit does not apply to:

1. Idling when queuing
2. Idling to verify that the vehicle is in safe operating condition
3. Idling for testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes

4. Idling necessary to accomplish work for which the vehicle was designed (such as operating a crane)
5. Idling required to bring the machine system to operating temperature, as specified by the manufacturer
6. Idling necessary to ensure safe operation of the vehicle

**ENFORCEMENT**

The Air Resources Board (ARB) enforcement advisory for idling is available online from ARB’s website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/guidance/idling.pdf>. The enforcement advisory describes the method by which the idling policy will be enforced by ARB staff, and also states “each first time violation of the idling requirements will be assessed a minimum civil penalty of \$300. Subsequent penalties can range for \$1,000 to \$10,000.”

**AVAILABILITY**

This written policy shall be updated as necessary when notified by ARB. The policy is available on line at [www.stancounty.com/publicworks](http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks) and can also be obtained from Roads Division administrative staff.

**VIOLATION**

An employee who violates this policy may be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, demotion or termination from County employment.

I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand this policy.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date