



Los Angeles Councilwoman Janice Hahn
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Councilwoman Hahn Enlists Port Police to Help Improve Air Quality

Councilwoman Janice Hahn this week asked the City Attorney to write an ordinance that would give the Los Angeles Port Police the authority to enforce idling restrictions currently in place under the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In 2007, AB 233 was passed, mandating that diesel vehicles be turned off if they would otherwise be idling for more than five minutes. The bill delegated enforcement of provision to the CARB. In areas surrounding the Port of Los Angeles, trucks frequently leave their engines idling for hours at a time. However, CARB officers do not have the resources to monitor these regions and cite the trucks that violate the regulations.

“We know that emissions from diesel exhaust are the cause of asthma, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer, and we need to minimize particulate pollution in every way possible in order to save lives and improve the health of families living near the Port. Enforcing idling restrictions is a simple but effective way to do just that,” said Councilwoman Hahn.

Emissions from diesel exhaust lead to thousands of serious health problems, hospital visits and deaths each year. Recent studies have also found that particulate pollution increases the risk of heart disease in older women, and a 2007 USC study found that children living within 500 yards of a freeway can have pronounced deficits in lung capacity.

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