



# Maricopa County

## News Release

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## **County Passes Vehicle Idling Restriction Ordinance Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Restriction to Reduce Tons of Pollution**

(Phoenix) – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance today that will help to reduce tons of Valley pollution, conserve energy, and save money by restricting heavy duty diesel engine idling. The Environmental Services Department will begin implementing the ordinance, which was recommended by the Governor’s Brown Cloud Summit and required by House Bill 2538, on July 1, 2002.

“I’m a big supporter of this new ordinance,” says District 5 Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox. “This policy begins to address the issue of trucks idling and impacting air quality in neighborhoods. In my district, we see many, many big trucks and other large vehicles idling and spitting out pollution into our air.”

Signs at truck stops and distribution centers will outline the ordinance, which restricts idling to a maximum of five consecutive minutes for vehicles with the following criteria:

- gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds,
- designed and registered to operate on public highways,
- powered by a diesel engine.

Through a \$100,000 grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Services Department will hire a full time employee, provide educational materials, and purchase a vehicle. Initial efforts will focus on education and outreach to industry, distribution centers and truck stops, and truck drivers. Part of the education process will include working with trade associations to notify membership, updating all local government agencies, including law enforcement, and conducting onsite inspections at distribution centers and trucking firms.

“Reducing idling can substantially cut down on the amount of pollution emitted into our air,” said Al Brown, Director of the Environmental Services Department. “Not only can this help our environment, but it can save truck owners money and put less wear and tear on their vehicles,” said Brown.

Violators of this ordinance are subject to a \$100 fine upon first violation, and \$300 for any subsequent violations.

Exceptions to the ordinance include vehicles stuck in traffic or poor weather, operation for emergency or law enforcement purposes, idling to conform to manufacturer's warm up or cool down specifications, or operation for maintenance or diagnostic purposes. Also excluded are trucks packing refrigerated items as well as trucks being used for sleeping.

Vehicle Idling Facts:

- If 75 percent of the trucks and buses reduce idling by 80 percent, it would eliminate an estimated 71 metric tons per year of PM 2.5, the fine particulates that make up a substantial portion of the Valley's Brown Cloud.
- Every 28 hours in the US, the same amount of fuel spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster is idled away.
- The annual amount of fuel consumed while idling is \$3.75 billion to truck owners.
- Idling gives you zero miles per gallon.
- Prolonged idling reduces the operating life of engine oil by 75%.
- One hour of idling is equivalent to two hours of driving.