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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Receives \$200,000 EPA Grant For Help in Funding Clean School Buses

PHOENIX (April 7, 2008) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens announced today that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is awarding ADEQ \$200,000 to help fund low-emission school buses in Arizona.

ADEQ will use the EPA funds to help school districts in the Phoenix area install diesel particulate filter (DPF) emission control devices on school buses. The filters can reduce harmful particulate emissions by about 85 percent, carbon monoxide by up to 90 percent and ozone precursors by more than 90 percent.

ADEQ will invite school districts to apply for grants this spring of up to \$5,000 to cover the costs of the filters and the labor to install them. The funds will cover new filters for about 40 buses.

To receive the grant funds, schools must participate in ADEQ's voluntary School Bus Idling Program, under which school districts reduce diesel emissions by limiting bus idling near schools.

"Diesel exhaust is one of the most harmful pollutants that our children are exposed to on a daily basis," Director Owens said. "We will use this money to help local school districts install new pollution control filters on school buses to help protect our children, as well as reduce particulate pollution levels overall in the Phoenix area. These funds will help us continue to clean up school bus fleets in Arizona and reduce diesel emissions."