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## **ADEQ Cleans Up Diesel Emissions in South Phoenix**

PHOENIX (Oct. 17, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that work has been completed on a project funded by ADEQ to install emissions-control devices on a number of diesel powered vehicles and other machines operating in South Phoenix.

ADEQ provided the City of Phoenix with a \$208,000 grant last year to buy and install 53 diesel oxidation catalysts and 11 diesel particulate filters on 64 vehicles and other pieces of equipment owned and operated by the City. The retrofitted vehicles included 39 trash trucks, 23 street sweepers, an excavator and a loader.

“This project will help protect children and families in South Phoenix from harmful diesel pollution that otherwise would be emitted by these vehicles,” Director Owens said. “Diesel exhaust is especially harmful to children and is a principle trigger for asthma attacks and other respiratory problems affecting some South Phoenix residents because of the volume of diesel truck traffic and industrial activity in the area.”

Owens added that in addition to the diesel vehicle retrofit project, ADEQ has taken other steps to reduce diesel emissions in South Phoenix, including getting five school districts in South Phoenix to participate in ADEQ’s School Bus Idling program.

The idling program is a voluntary effort which has reduced diesel exhausts through school bus drivers turning their engines off while waiting for students at school loading and dropoff zones. The program has reduced harmful emissions from nearly 140 buses and affecting about 45,000 students in the South Phoenix area.