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## **ADEQ Announces \$200,000 Grant to Retrofit 90 Yuma County School Buses to Reduce Harmful Diesel Emissions**

PHOENIX (May 23, 2011) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today a major initiative to improve air quality in Yuma County with a \$200,000 grant to install retrofit devices on 90 school buses to reduce harmful diesel emissions in the region.

The ADEQ initiative, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), will equip the school buses with devices to reduce particulate matter air pollution from diesel emissions from between about 30 percent and 90 percent, depending on the device used.

The money will be used to retrofit 47 school buses in Yuma School District #1, 23 buses in Crane Elementary School District in Yuma, and 10 buses each in Somerton Elementary School District and in the fleet of Harvest Preparatory Academy in Yuma. The project will be completed by December.

Last year, 39 school buses in Arizona's other border counties, Cochise and Santa Cruz, were retrofitted and ADEQ and EPA also partnered in a 2008 project to retrofit 32 school buses in the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35.

"We are making significant progress in cleaning the air in Arizona's border region through the school bus retrofit campaign," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said. "That's great news for air quality and children's health throughout Arizona."

The retrofit initiative complements other ADEQ programs to reduce diesel emissions, including the department's program to reduce school bus idling, which has been adopted by more than 700 schools in the state.