ARB and AGC Reach Agreement on Changes to “Off-Road” Diesel Regulation

Last month, the Air Resources Board (ARB) and Associated General Contractors (AGC) announced they had agreed on proposed amendments to ease requirements of the “off-road” diesel regulations originally adopted in July 2007. AGC questioned the science ARB used to craft the regulation citing that ARB had significantly overstated the construction industry’s fuel usage and the resultant diesel emissions – some claims cited ARB’s figures as 350% higher than actual. In the end, ARB and AGC used common data figures to arrive at revisions to the regulation which will be presented at a December ARB hearing. An outline of the agreement includes:

- 4-year delay in compliance deadlines: 2014 for Large Fleets (5,000+ hp); 2017 for Medium Fleets (2,501-5,000 hp); and 2019 for Small Fleets (2,500 hp or less).
- Allowance for fleets to use turnover of fleet equipment in lieu of costly filter retrofits to meet emission calculations.
- Lower annual requirements to clean up engines from the original 28-30% to 5-10%.

Other points of the regulation are still being negotiated. The final agreement will be considered for a vote by the ARB Board at the December 16-17 hearing in Sacramento. CCMCA will be in attendance, so stay tuned for more on this important issue.

Workers’ Comp Rating Bureau Recommends 27.7% Increase for January 1, 2011

Citing increased medical costs and failure by the Insurance Commissioner to adopt previous rate increase recommendations, the Workers’ Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau (WCIRB) has proposed a 27.7% rate increase for policies incepting or renewing on January 1, 2011. CCMCA attended the October 12 hearing at which the WCIRB defended its recommendation to the Insurance Commissioner. The Commissioner questioned the methodology used to arrive at the sky-high figure and had serious concerns about its timing in the current economy. We expect the Commissioner to make his own recommendation at the middle of this month. In the meantime, many insurance companies have already filed or are filing their rates...which may vary from the WCIRB and Insurance Commissioner recommendations. It is important to note that the WCIRB and Insurance Commissioner rate recommendations are just that -- recommendations. If you are interested in hearing more about the future of Workers’ Comp, the Workers’ Compensation Action Network is hosting a FREE WEBINAR “Workers’ Comp Forecast 2011” on November 17 @ 10-11am. To register, visit www.fixworkerscompnow.com
State Suspends Its Labor Compliance Program on Certain Prevailing Wage Projects

Well, there is a first time for everything. The state is actually taking its hands out of your pockets! In July, we reported that the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) had assumed labor compliance duties in the way of monitoring, enforcement, and fee collection on bond-funded public projects effective August 1, 2010. As it turns out, it may not be legal to use state bond funds to pay said fees to a state agency. In fact, doing so was threatening the state’s ability to issue and sell bonds to fund public projects. So, on October 21, 2010, DIR proposed emergency action to suspend the August 1 regulation. This means that, for now anyway, DIR is no longer performing the duties it assumed in August through its Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU). Rather labor compliance will revert back to traditional LCP’s until such time as the legal issues in question can be resolved. This action in no way relieves contractors of the responsibilities associated with labor compliance on prevailing wage projects. It simply modifies who will be watching you. Please visit the DIR website (link below) for more information.

http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/cmu/cmu.html

Join Us in Las Vegas for the Next CCMCA State Meeting – January 18, 2011

CCMCA 146th State Meeting
January 18, 2011
9-11am
Las Vegas Convention Center, Room N210

There is no charge to attend this meeting. So, there is no excuse not to be there and participate in one of the most important debates affecting your industry and, ultimately, your business. Curious? Stay tuned for details.

WANTED! Completed Project Photos for the New CCMCA Website

CCMCA is getting very close to revealing its new and greatly improved website, and we would like your help to make the site a dynamic success. We are currently seeking completed masonry project photos to be featured on the site. Photos should be owned by you, and you give CCMCA permission to use them (we do not want copyright problems with photographers). Acceptable file formats are jpg, psd, and tiff. You may e-mail condensed photo files to: julie@ccmca.org. Or, if the files are large, please place them on a DVD and send them to: Edmund Price, E. Curtis Designs, 1624 Eldrige Ave., Sacramento, CA 95815-1514. Include a brief description of your submitted projects including any awards. What’s wrong with a little self-promotion…especially if it is done in support of your state masonry association?! Thank you.