

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLKSWAGEN CLEAN AIR ACT CIVIL SETTLEMENT

The State of Louisiana through the Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), as the named beneficiary, announces the availability of funds received by means of the Volkswagen Corporation and affiliates partial court settlement. Accordingly, the funds will be dispersed under the supervision of LDEQ.

BACKGROUND

On Oct. 25, 2016, the Volkswagen (VW) Corporation, its affiliates and the EPA finalized a partial Consent Decree related to violations of the Clean Air Act (CAA) with regard to approximately 590,000 2.0 liter diesel vehicles sold in the U.S. These vehicles were fitted with defeat devices that during normal vehicle operation resulted in increased emission of nitrogen oxides (NOx). NOx emissions contribute to the formation of ground level ozone and are a significant health concern.

The consent decree provides for the establishment of an Environmental Mitigation Trust to provide funds to the states to remediate the air quality impacts of the 2.0 liter vehicle emissions. Louisiana's initial share is approximately \$18 million over a three-year period. The \$18 million to be distributed from the trust fund will pay for defined eligible projects also known as eligible mitigation actions. These include projects to reduce NOx from heavy duty diesel sources near population centers, such as large trucks, school and transit buses. A complete list of eligible mitigation actions is found in [Appendix D-2 of the Consent Decree](#). The goal of each Eligible Mitigation Action shall be to achieve reductions of NOx emissions in the United States.

PROJECTS

The state will distribute the Mitigation Trust Fund dollars among lasting, sustainable solutions. To this end, the state will give preference to projects proposed by public agencies that offer long-term benefits to the community at large.

The state is considering the replacement of or repowering of publicly owned school buses as provided in the Consent Decree and the replacement of or repowering of aging state-owned heavy equipment fleet vehicles that are eligible under the mitigation trust. The vehicles will be replaced with new cleaner vehicles and or new cleaner burning engines.

As identified in Appendix D, other options are available for consideration.

All proposals must be received by the LDEQ no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Once the proposal is reviewed by the Beneficiary, it will be submitted to the Trustee for approval and funding.

Proposals may be submitted by email at perry.theriot@la.gov; faxed to 225-219-0000; mailed to the Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Perry Theriot, P.O. Box 4303, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303; or it may be hand delivered to 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

The full Partial Settlement, including Appendix D is available for review at: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/871306/download>.