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Contact: Bill Magavern, 916-557-1100, x102

### California Clean-Car Standards Key to Reducing Oil Dependence and Pollution

Sacramento, CA – Sierra Club California welcomed President Barack Obama’s announcement today that the federal Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency are setting the first-ever emissions standards for medium and heavy duty trucks starting in 2014, and will begin the next round of standards for cars and light trucks for 2017 and beyond.

Statement of Bill Magavern, Director of Sierra Club California:

President Obama’s historic announcement will continue the rapid progress made since last May in reducing oil use and pollution from motor vehicles. California’s pioneering standards for cars and light trucks, established by Senator Fran Pavley’s AB 1493 and implemented by the Air Resources Board, led to the new national rules covering the 2012-2016 period. Now ARB needs to move forward this year with emissions standards for 2017 to 2025, so that the whole country can again follow California’s lead and achieve the maximum feasible reductions in petroleum pollution. Californians are appalled by the devastation wreaked on the Gulf of Mexico by our addiction to oil. Drivers want cleaner, more efficient vehicles that use new technologies to reach 50 miles per gallon or better and save money at the pump.

After cars and light trucks, freight trucks are the second largest consumers of oil – burning more than 2.4 million barrels per day and growing. Right now these trucks only average 6 miles per gallon--a number that has remained virtually unchanged since the 1970’s.

For heavy duty trucks, these standards are a great start, but it is important to begin moving more freight by rail. This will yield the greatest savings in both oil and global warming pollution.