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New Year to Usher in B20 Biodiesel Standards for Underground Storage Tanks in California

Storage of biodiesel blends of up to 20 percent in underground tanks to help state meet growing demand for biodiesel, according to the California Advanced Biofuels Alliance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Dec. 12, 2019) – As of January 1, 2020, California’s biodiesel wholesalers and retailers can take advantage of a new regulation allowing them to store up to 20-percent biodiesel blends in underground storage tanks, the California Advanced Biofuels Alliance (CABA) announced today.

The new regulation paves the way for California to realize the tremendous environmental benefits of low-carbon B20 biodiesel because it makes this cleaner fuel more widely available for consumers and heavy-duty business fleets, according to CABA. Prior to the new regulation, only five-percent biodiesel blends were allowable in underground storage tanks.

“B20 in 2020 represents an opportunity to integrate clean biodiesel into the state’s mainstream fuel supply,” said Tyson Keever, chair of CABA. “We are now in a strong position to meet growing demand as well as helping California achieve its climate change goals and significantly improve air quality for millions of Californians, particularly those living in disadvantaged areas.”

Biodiesel – which can be used in any diesel engine – is a renewable fuel made from a diverse mix of such organic materials as recycled cooking oil, soybean oil and animal fats. The B20 blend significantly reduces greenhouse gases when compared to fossil fuels – by as much 50 to 81 percent, according to the California Air Resources Board.

“We are thrilled that we are finally able to offer this better alternative fuel,” said Sam Bayless, president of the California Fuels & Convenience Alliance, which represents wholesale distributors as well as retail businesses that sell biodiesel to consumers.

Increased biodiesel use is expected to significantly offset poor air quality, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities, which are typically near industrial areas and freeways where heavy-duty trucks are prevalent. Elimination of petroleum diesels will help reduce asthma, cardiovascular disease and some cancers, according to CABA, which recently announced the industry will supply California with one-hundred-percent sustainable biodiesel by 2030 to meet the state’s climate change goals.

“Biodiesel is the fastest and most effective way to begin improving air quality throughout California,” said Keever. “Electrification of heavy duty trucks is decades away, but biodiesel is here now and is an immediate solution because diesel engines don’t need retrofitting and cost is a non-factor; the new storage regulations will help boost supply to meet growing demand.”

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About the California Advanced Biofuels Alliance (CABA)

The California Advanced Biofuels Alliance’s (CABA) mission is to promote the production and use of advanced biofuels in California. Founded in 2006, CABA has worked both in-state and at the national level to address regulatory, policy, and legislative issues to enable a growing market for biofuels in California. More info at www.caadvancedbiofuelsalliance.org.