CALIFORNIA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

The 5th Wheel







Caltrans District 3 Winter Operations Meeting

The annual **Caltrans District 3 Winter Operations meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 22 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.** The meeting is being held in South Lake Tahoe at 2243 Cornelian Drive.

If you operate over the Donner Pass on I-80 between California and Nevada, then you don't want to miss this meeting!

Caltrans and CHP will discuss the upcoming winter, address challenges, meet colleagues, and share ideas. Light Refreshments will be served.

CTA will continue to share Caltrans alerts throughout the winter season to ensure CTA members are up to date on the most recent closures, chain requirements, and delays.



President Trump's Dyed Diesel Executive Order

On October 5, the President issued an **Executive Order** that, according to the White House, "temporarily opens highway use of tax-free dyed diesel, deferring the federal diesel tax on that fuel through the end of the year — no interest, no penalties."

Specifically, the Order directs the Secretary of the Treasury to use his authority to defer **(not waive)** federal diesel fuel tax payments without penalty or interest for the period of October 5 **through December 31, 2026.**

The Treasury Secretary is also directed to "explore avenues, including legislation" to forgive the deferred tax payments. The Transportation Secretary is directed to engage with state governments to coordinate policies.

Additionally, on October 14, 2026, the IRS announced that in response to the President's Oct. 5, 2026, Executive Order, Emergency Tax Relief on Diesel Fuel, it will **NOT** impose a penalty when dyed diesel fuel is sold for use or used on highways nationwide.

The relief is **retroactive to Oct. 1, 2026,** and will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2026. Relief is available to any person that sells dyed diesel fuel or uses dyed diesel fuel for highway use. During the relief period, ordinary procedures for collection and enforcement will be suspended.

This relief **only** applies for **federal tax purposes.** It has **no effect on state fuel taxes and penalties** that a state may impose on the use of dyed diesel fuel on the highway. Many, but not all, states have provided similar state excise tax-related relief. Taxpayers are encouraged to refer to their applicable state agencies for the latest guidance on state-level relief.

The IRS says that they will release guidance soon and the full announcement can be found **HERE.**

What does this mean for California?

For California carriers, **the federal order does not override California's restrictions on the use of dyed diesel in on-road vehicles.** Dyed diesel remains prohibited for regular on-road trucking operations under state law.

California would need to separately authorize this use, such as through an executive order from the Governor temporarily suspending the state's restrictions on the on-road use of red-dyed diesel.

Until California authorizes this use, carriers should continue using standard on-road diesel fuel. CTA will notify members if the Governor issues such an order or exemption.

Carriers remain subject to enforcement by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, including fuel inspections at roadside inspection stations and fueling facilities. Unauthorized use can result in state penalties regardless of the temporary federal relief.



ATA Names Mark Colson Next President and CEO

The American Trucking Associations has named Mark Colson its next president and CEO, effective December 1. Colson has led the Alabama Trucking Association since 2019 and previously held several roles at the Business Council of Alabama, including interim president, senior vice president of government affairs and chief of staff.

Within the ATA Federation, Colson chaired the task force that developed the Trucking Resurgence action plan in December 2025 and was elected vice chairman of the Trucking Association Executives Council in July 2026. He also serves on ATA's Strategic Priorities Committee, the Truck PAC Board of Directors and ATRI's Research Advisory Committee.

Statement from CTA CEO Eric Sauer:

> "Congratulations to Mark Colson on his selection as ATA's next President and CEO. Mark understands the challenges facing our industry and the importance of a strong partnership between ATA and the state trucking associations. The California Trucking Association looks forward to working with him to advance our shared priorities and ensure California's trucking industry has a strong voice in Washington."

Colson succeeds Chris Spear and will be ATA's tenth president and CEO since its founding in 1933.

Read the Announcement →



In the News: CTA President Tim Pollock on Diesel Prices

CTA President Tim Pollock, vice president of CPS Express, spoke with Trucking Dive about what diesel prices above $8 a gallon mean for California carriers. The article was published October 14.

California's average diesel price was $8.09 a gallon on October 12, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, up 1 cent from the week before. Prices peaked near $8.25 in September.

"It definitely is a tremendous impact here in our industry," Pollock said. Fuel was already one of carriers' largest expenses before prices reached record highs earlier this year. Pollock said smaller carriers may lack the cash to cover fuel up front before surcharges apply, and surcharges may cover only 70 to 75 percent of the cost.

The article notes that the federal dyed diesel order means little in California, which restricts tax-free dyed fuel on public roads. The California Farm Bureau estimates that suspending the state diesel tax could save businesses 73 cents a gallon. Earlier this month, CTA and 37 other organizations asked Governor Newsom for immediate action on diesel prices.

"Everything can help," Pollock said. "At the end of the day, somebody's got to pay for this cost."

Read the Article →

CARB Board Meeting to Discuss SB 253

The **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** is hosting a board meeting where the board will be discussing the **SB 253 Corporate Climate Disclosures Program** on **October 22, 2026** with a panel of experts.

The panel will be discussing the current implications of the program thus far and will discuss future concepts regarding Scope 3 emissions disclosures.

The informational hearing will begin at noon and you can register below:

Register

ARTI Names Page Siplon Next President and COO

The Board of Directors of the American Transportation Research Institute **(ATRI)** announced the selection of nationally recognized transportation and logistics executive **Page Siplon** as its next **president and chief operating officer.** Siplon will join ATRI in November, working alongside current ATRI President Rebecca Brewster to ensure a seamless leadership transition before succeeding her upon her retirement in February 2027.

"Page brings a unique combination of executive leadership, a track record of building public-private partnerships, and a deep understanding of the transportation industry," **said Brenda Neville, Iowa Motor Truck Association President and CEO, and ATRI Search Committee Chair.** "We are excited to welcome Page to ATRI and believe his experience, collaborative approach, and leadership will help the organization build on its strong foundation and continue delivering meaningful value to the trucking industry."

"I'm incredibly excited and humbled by the opportunity to lead ATRI and build on the remarkable work Rebecca and her team have done over the years," **said Siplon.** "I've always believed that trucking is the common denominator of our economy. Our nation simply cannot function without it. ATRI has earned a level of **respect and trust** throughout our industry that is truly special, and looking ahead, I see tremendous opportunity to build on that foundation, broaden our reach, and find new ways to put our research to work for the trucking industry and the economy that relies on it."

Siplon's selection follows a nationwide search to succeed Brewster, who announced her retirement earlier this year after serving more than three decades with ATRI.



Coalition Letter Urges Governor Newsom to Act on Diesel Prices

On October 7, CTA led a coalition of 37 other organizations in sending Governor Newsom a letter requesting immediate action to provide diesel fuel price relief. Signers include agricultural, retail, manufacturing, port, warehouse and trucking associations from across the state.

What the Letter Says

Diesel Prices - According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, California diesel averaged $8.25 per gallon the week of September 21, 2026, more than $3.26 higher than a year earlier.

Impact on the Economy - Nearly one-third of California's economy depends on goods movement. Rising diesel prices risk disrupting agriculture, construction and housing, retail, healthcare, manufacturing and more.

Precedent - In March 2022, when diesel peaked at $6.29 per gallon, the Administration and the Legislature temporarily paused collection of a portion of the state sales tax on diesel and the annual inflation adjustment to excise tax rates.

The Request - The coalition asks the Administration to work with legislative leadership to consider all available options. California cannot control international events, but it can act on the taxes, regulatory costs and supply constraints within its jurisdiction. The letter was copied to Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón.

Read the Letter

CARB Drive Forward Expo in Fresno

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Catalyst Mobility are sponsoring the free **Drive Forward Expo** (formerly known as the Zero-Emission Showcase + Ride & Drive) on November 18, 2026, at the Big Fresno, Fair 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702.

What to expect:

- Test drive zero-emission medium and heavy-duty commercial trucks and off-road equipment.
- Become familiar with the various zero-emission technologies.

- Past Ride and Drive events have featured over 70 Class 2b-8 trucks, buses, vans, and off-road equipment.
- Receive information on incentive opportunities and the Cal Fleet Advisor technical assistance program.
- CARB staff will be available to answer questions on programs including Advanced Clean Fleets applicable to state and local government fleets, Clean Truck Check, and Off-Road Diesel, among others.
- Free parking available for attendees
-

Date: November 18, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Big Fresno Fair, 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702

Register



WAIRE Mitigation Program

Incentive Funding Window Opens

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is accepting applications for its WAIRE Mitigation Program. Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2026.

For the first year of the program, approximately $73.1 million is available to support the purchase of new zero-emission Class 4-8 trucks, off-road yard trucks, and associated zero-emission charging and fueling infrastructure.

Eligible applicants include warehouse operators, fleet operators, and zero emission truck charging and fueling infrastructure providers serving warehouses.

Applications are reviewed in the order received on a first-come, first-served basis, and funds are awarded to applicants that meet all requirements of the program.

Applicants who previously drafted and saved an application in the system will need to return to the GMS and click the “Submit” button to formally submit their application for review.

For eligibility details and access to the grant funding portal, visit the **WAIRE Mitigation Program Webpage.**

For any questions, contact SCAQMD staff at **waire-incentives@aqmd.gov.**

WAIRE Mitigation Program

EDUCATION

Virtual Safety Seminar: CA BIT Inspections & Audit

Prepare for California's Basic Inspection of Terminals (BIT) program with tips on 90-day inspections, terminal audits, documentation, and passing CHP reviews successfully.

Wednesday, October 14 at 1:00
CTA Member:$99
Non-Member: $149

Register Here

Central Valley Safety Day November 4 in Tulare

CTA's highly popular CHP CIEP Safety Training is coming to the Central Valley on November 4. This event is open to carrier members and carrier companies looking to join. Get answers to your compliance questions straight from the source.

Allied members- consider sponsoring a display table to show your product to all attendees.

Registration & Sponsorship Information



EVENTS & RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



AMC 2027 Registration Now Open!

Details, Sponsorship, & Registration

Do you know anyone with 50 years in the industry?



Nominations are now being accepted for the longtime trucking professionals to be honored in the **Golden Jubilee Club**. Members of this distinguished group meet every other year at CTA's **Annual Membership Conference** to hail the pioneers of our industry and introduce new members.

Eligible candidates are either working with or retired from CTA member organizations and have served a minimum of 50 years in the trucking industry.

Recipients will be honored at the CTA Golden Jubilee Club Breakfast on **January 22** during **CTA's Annual Membership Conference (AMC27)** at the **Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa**.
Application Deadline: December 1, 2026, no application fee

Completed applications or questions should be directed to Tina Ferguson at **tferguson@caltrux.org** or **916-373-3528**.

Golden Jubilee Nomination Form

Sponsorships Open for Driver of the Month Banquets

Drivers are the heart of this industry, so consider sponsoring the event to honor drivers across California! Click the date below for more information on either banquet.

November 7: Northern California Banquet

November 14: Southern California Banquet

LOCAL EVENTS

San Joaquin Unit Meeting with Caltrans District 10

Join the San Joaquin Unit October 20, 2026 at 11:30 am at JSG Trucking in Acampo, CA to meet with Caltrans District 10 and discuss the Stockton Channel Viaduct project.

Free to attend!

Registration & Information





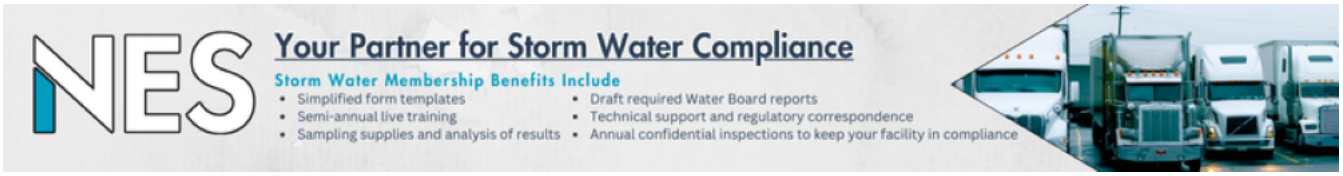
CTA-SUPPORTING, CTA-OWNED & OPERATED

TSC

- DOT COMPLIANCE
- EMPLOYER PROGRAMS
- BACKGROUND SCREENING
- MOBILE DRUG TESTING
- MRO SERVICES
- DRUG TESTING SOFTWARE

A portion of every dollar spent with TSC goes back to support the CTA. Experience exclusive member treatment with excellent customer service, reliability, and added value.

Contact Levi Ochotorena for more information





FREE DRIVER SAFETY EDUCATION

Keep Your Drivers Current on Safety with TREDS

CTA is partnered with UC San Diego's **Transportation Research and Education for Driving Safety Center (TREDS)** to prevent crash-related morbidity and mortality by improving safe driving behaviors.

TREDS offers two courses aimed at preventing commercial motor vehicle-involved crashes from distracted and substance-impaired driving. They partner with the CTA to make courses available to the commercial motor vehicle industry.

Courses are approximately 60-minutes in length and available in both English and Spanish.

Just Drive
DELIVER DISTRACTION-FREE

Courses focus on distraction related to the use of cell phones and electronic devices and...

Scope of the problem
Risk & consequences
Rules & regulations
Distracted, fatigued & drowsy driving
Work zone safety

Learn More

Just Drive
DELIVER DRUG-FREE

Courses focus on substances most commonly reported to the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse and...

Scope of the problem
Contributing factors
Risks & consequences
Laws & testing procedures
Strategies to drive-drug free

Learn More

EVENT CALENDAR

October 14: Virtual Seminar: CA BIT Inspections & Audit

October 14-15: Virtual Fall Policy Committee Meetings

October 15: Virtual Executive Committee Meeting

October 20: San Joaquin Unit Meeting with Caltrans

October 23: LA/ Orange Unit President's Event- Prado Olympic Shooting Park

[November 4: Virtual Seminar: 6 Audit Factors]

[November 4: Central Valley Safety Day]

[November 7: Northern CA Driver of the Month Banquet]

[November 14: Southern CA Driver of the Month Banquet]

[December 9: Virtual Seminar: Data Q's, Contesting Preventability, SMS & FMCSA Portal]

[January 19 - 22: CTA's 73rd Annual Membership Conference]

MEMBER SERVICES

CALIFORNIA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

CIRCLE CLUB SPONSOR

Circle Club Sponsor companies have shown a special commitment to CTA members and the trucking industry.

We encourage our members to take advantage of these special offers and support these affiliated businesses.

Click here to view CTA Circle Club Sponsor companies and their valuable promotions.



Digital Back Issues: The Caltrux Bookshelf

For decades **Caltrux Magazine** has informed and entertained our members with news and features regarding the transport business, our legislative challenges and wins, and in-depth focus on the movers and shakers of California trucking.

The **Caltrux Bookshelf** uses a digital flipbook format to display these magazine issues in high quality, complete with articles and advertisements - identical to what you already receive in the mail.



California Trucking Association | 4148 E. Commerce Way | Sacramento, CA 95834 US