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CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF FUEL CONSUMPTION & CO₂ EMISSIONS IDLING VEHICLES AT SCHOOLS – CALIFORNIA, 2019

Number of schools, California: 10,521 (CDE 2018-19)

Number of days in school year: 175

Average light-duty vehicle idling fuel consumption per hour: 0.375 gallons*

PER SCHOOL - estimated

Average number of vehicles at school drop-off, daily: 100

Number of vehicles idling at drop-off, daily: 67%** = 67 vehicles idling

Average time of drop-off idling per vehicle: 1 minute

Fuel consumed during drop-off, 175 days: 73 gallons

CO₂ emissions idling vehicles drop-off, 175 days: 1,465 lbs.

PER SCHOOL - estimated

Average number of vehicles at school pick-up (dismissal), daily: 100

Number of vehicles idling at pick-up, daily: 57%** = 57 vehicles idling

Average time of pick-up idling per vehicle, daily: 15 minutes

Fuel consumed during pick-up, 175 days: 935 gallons

CO₂ emissions idling vehicles pick-up, 175 days: 18,703 lbs.

PER SCHOOL - estimated

Total fuel consumed drop-off and pick-up, 175 days: 1,008 gallons

Total CO₂ emissions drop-off and pick-up, 175 days: 20,168 lbs. (10 tons)

10,521 SCHOOLS - estimated

Total fuel consumed drop-off and pick-up, 175 days: 10,605,168 gallons

Total CO₂ emissions drop-off and pick-up, 175 days: 106,051 tons

*based on average range of light-duty vehicle engine liter sizes of compact vehicles (from 2 liters) to pickup trucks (up to 5 liters)

**takes into account number of non-idling electric and hybrid vehicles in CA as of late 2019: 13.4%; however, this figure is expected to be lower for USDs located in moderate and lower income areas, especially in the Central Valley

NOTE: estimates of number of vehicles at schools, number of vehicles idling at schools, and amount of time spent during drop-off and pick-up (dismissal) are rough, based on limited studies of passenger vehicle idling at schools.