

NEWS RELEASE

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California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. Fact Sheet for May 14, 2007 News Conference

* Brown, in California's lawsuit, says the Bush administration violated the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), a key law that was adopted by President Ford on Dec. 22, 1975 after the Arab oil embargoes. EPCA authorized three primary programs: the United States involvement in the International Energy Agency, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and efforts to "reduce vulnerability through several energy efficiency and renewable energy and conservation programs."

* The lawsuit targets the April 6, 2006 decision by the National Highway Safety Administration's approval of a one-mile-per gallon increase in fuel efficiency, from 22.2 miles per gallon to 23.5 by 2010.

* Automobiles at issue include SUVs, minivans and pickups.

* California, 11 states and environmentalists sued Nov. 15, 2006. The case is being heard Monday, May 14, directly before a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Monday is the first court hearing on the lawsuit, as challenges to the National Highway Safety Administration's rules go directly to the nation's courts of appeal.

* A decision from the court is expected anytime.

* Other plaintiffs backing California in the lawsuit include: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, District of Columbia, New York City, the Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense and Sierra Club.

* The case is California v. National Highway Safety Administration, 06-72317.

* Court records can be found at www.ca.ag.gov/newsalerts/

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