



MEDIA ADVISORY

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CITY OF EL MONTE HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT FOR STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS FUELING STATION

El Monte, Calif. - The newly updated and expanded Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station, located at the Transportation Services Facility on Cypress Avenue in El Monte, was recently re-opened. To celebrate the successful upgrade of the state-of-the-art station, the City of El Monte held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 9 at the Transportation Services Facility.

“This newly revamped station is a great accomplishment for the City of El Monte and will go a long way toward helping the City become more energy efficient,” said Andre Quintero, Mayor of the City of El Monte. “With a vast number of public transportation vehicles running off of clean fuels and now a refueling facility, the City of El Monte is taking proactive steps to reducing its carbon footprint.”

For years the City of El Monte has been a pioneer of employing clean air technology. The City started an Alternative Fueled Vehicle Program in 1992 with electric powered shuttle buses as a Metropolitan Transportation Authority test program. In 1995, due to changing technologies, the City shifted its focus toward clean burning fuel, contracting Fuel Solutions, Inc. to oversee the construction of the City’s first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Station at El Monte’s Cleminson facility. With the Station completed in 1997, the City purchased its first CNG vehicles; three used transit buses for the Commuter Shuttles Program.

In 2000, the station was relocated to the new Transportation Offices on Cypress and over the next few years the City added 11 maintenance trucks, two cargo vans and five Honda Civics, purchased with clean air and transportation funds, to its CNG fleet. In 2004, the “El Monte Trolley Company’s” fleet of diesel buses, and three CNG shuttle buses, were replaced with eight new, larger, cutting-edge CNG transit buses. With the CNG fleet now at 26 vehicles, it was determined that a much larger capacity compressor was needed to accommodate existing and future fueling demands.

After securing a grant through the Mobile Source Reduction Committee’s Clean Transportation Funding Program, which awarded \$157,947 towards the project, and allocating Proposition C Transportation Local Return Funds to cover the remaining costs,

the City began the conception, design and engineering of its new CNG Station in early 2007. Construction began shortly thereafter and took only 16 months from start to finish.

Now equipped to fuel the entire City of El Monte CNG fleet, the City is also negotiating refueling contracts with several municipalities and government agencies that also appreciate the convenience of a CNG station in El Monte and the impact that station has on building a cleaner tomorrow.

Held at 3 p.m. at the Transportation Services facility, the ribbon-cutting event for the new station was attended by city officials, local elected officials and community members. Acting as Master of Ceremonies, El Monte City Manager Rene Bobadilla presided over the event. The Ceremony featured a brief history of El Monte's alternate fuels program by Transportation Services Manager Deborah Moraza, as well as presentations from representatives for Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senator Gloria Romero and the El Monte City Council.

Council Members Emily Ishigaki and Norma Macias also made presentations to the project contractors, Jerry Chestnut, Construction Manager, and Eric Tillotson, Site Superintendent, of Weaver Inc.

Also in attendance were, Community Services Commissioner Ron Ishigaki, Beautification Commissioner Charles Castaneda, Police Chief Tom Armstrong, Cynthia Ravenstien and Rachel Valensuela from South Coast Air Quality Management District's Mobil Source Reduction Committee's Clean Transportation Funding Program, Gwynn Stevens, CNG Station Project Manager, Grant Writer, as well as other key city staff and local residents.

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