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News Release

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LAUSD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION RECEIVES 2010 NATIONAL NATURAL GAS VEHICLE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Los Angeles - The Los Angeles Unified School District was honored today by the natural gas vehicle industry for their efforts to advance the development of natural gas vehicles in the United States. The District received a 2010 NGV Achievement Award for its efforts to green is school bus fleet with natural gas.

“We are excited to support those technologies that help to provide our students and our community with a healthy environment,” said LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines. “Alternative fueled buses improve air quality, reduce global warming gas emissions and are investments that safeguard our students from breathing toxic diesel exhaust.”

As the second largest school district in the country, the LAUSD has played a critical leadership role in the greening of America’s school bus fleets. Just a few years ago, the District had one of the oldest school bus fleets in the country. With the decision to order 260 new buses this year, the District now has the largest alternative fuel school bus fleet in the nation. The LAUSD was initially driven by an effort to ensure safe transportation for its students, but has now adopted a comprehensive program to become the greenest school district in the country.

It began in 2003, when the Los Angeles Board of Education adopted the Healthy Breathing Initiative, mandating that the school district accept bids to purchase or contract buses that meet strict emission standards. Such actions had a far-reaching impact throughout the nation’s school systems, as more districts continue to follow their lead and adopt comprehensive alternative fuel programs.

The District has developed a strong partnership with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, helping guide emission reduction programs in Southern California while actively pursuing funding to decommission outdated diesel-fueled buses.

The 2010 National NGV Achievement Award was presented by NGVAmerica and the Clean Vehicle Education Foundation, two organizations dedicated to increasing the use of natural gas vehicles to improve air quality, lessen dependence on foreign oil and reduce fleet operator costs.

The NGV Achievement Awards were presented at the associations' joint Natural Gas Vehicle Summit-Conference, which brings together industry leaders from across the country, including those who are involved in providing equipment, vehicles and fueling infrastructure for natural gas vehicles. This is the 18th year for the awards.

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