

Los Angeles Unified School District

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 24th floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-6766

FAX: (213) 241-8952

www.lausd.net



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ellen Morgan 213-241-6766
Lourdes Vitor 213-241-4685

April 28, 2010
#09/10-239

LAUSD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AWARDED GREEN SCHOOL BUS GRANT

DISTRICT TO EXPAND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BUS FLEET WITH 260 NEW CNG SCHOOL BUSES

Los Angeles – In the continuing efforts to protect children’s health and ensure environmental stewardship by adopting the strictest possible emission standards, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Transportation Services Division is pleased to announce the grant award of \$43 million in funding from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for the purchase of 260 compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses. This award further affirms the District as having the largest alternative fuel school bus fleet in the nation. After delivery of the 260 buses, the LAUSD will have 403 CNG, 100 Ultra Low Emission Gasoline and 90 propane District owned school buses serving students in the Southern California community.

"We are excited to support those technologies that help to provide our students and our community with a healthy school environment to and from home," said Superintendent Ramon C.Cortines. "These alternative-fueled buses improve air quality and fuel economy, reduce global warming gas emissions and are investments that safeguard our students from breathing toxic diesel exhaust."

In 2003, the LAUSD Board of Education adopted the Healthy Breathing Initiative which mandated that LAUSD would only accept bids to purchase or to contract buses fueled by alternative fuels or green diesel school buses that meet strict emission standards.

"As we replace our old bus fleet, all new buses must help improve our environment and assure that our children and bus drivers are not harmed by dangerous pollutants," says Board President Mónica García. "This grant reflects our commitment to being a green school district, ensuring safe and healthy learning environments for our students.

(more)

With each CNG Bus valued at \$180,000, the SCAQMD grant funding allows LAUSD to purchase each bus for approximately \$13,000, a cost savings of \$167,000 per bus.

“We appreciate our partnership with SCAQMD who continue to help us with the financial challenges of school bus replacement,” said Transportation Director Enrique Boull’t. “LAUSD has the oldest school bus fleet among major urban school districts. Together, our goal is to provide new energy-efficient, lower-emission and safe school buses to our students.

CNG buses run on an alternative fuel for gasoline (petrol) or diesel fuels. Natural, clear and non-corrosive, these vehicles have lower smog-forming emissions than their diesel counterparts. All new school buses come equipped with improved safety features including 3-point lap and pelvic seat restraints, fire suppression systems, additional emergency exit capability, anti-lock braking systems, automatic parking brakes, flame-retardant seats, raised fully padded seatbacks and methane leak detectors on natural gas buses.

For more information on the LAUSD Alternative-Fueled School Bus Fleet, please visit <http://transportation.lausd.net>.

#

Los Angeles Unified School District

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 24th floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-6766

FAX: (213) 241-8952

www.lausd.net



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Nadia Gonzalez
213-241-6766

April 2, 2008

#07/08-278

LAUSD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AWARDED GREEN SCHOOL BUS GRANT

Los Angeles - In an effort to protect children's health and ensure environmental stewardship by adopting the strictest possible emission standards, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Transportation Branch has received additional funding from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for 40 compressed natural gas buses. The new buses solidify the District as having the largest compressed natural gas (CNG) school bus fleet comprised of 173 buses in the State of California.

"We owe it to our children and our community to provide a healthy school environment to and from home. These CNG Buses are investments that safeguard our students from breathing toxic diesel exhaust," said LAUSD Superintendent David L. Brewer III.

In 2003, the LAUSD Board of Education adopted the Healthy Breathing Initiative. As part of this initiative, LAUSD would only accept bids to purchase or to contract buses fueled by alternative fuels or green diesel school buses that meet strict emission standards.

"The Board made a very important decision. As we change out our old bus fleet, all new buses must help improve our environment and assure that our children and bus drivers would not be harmed by dangerous pollutants," says Board Member Julie Korenstein. "Air quality and its impact on the health of children should be a growing concern for all of us."

"LAUSD has the oldest school bus fleet among major urban school districts and we appreciate our partnership with AQMD who continue to help us with the financial challenges of school bus replacement," said Transportation Director Enrique Boull't. "Together, our goal is to provide new energy efficient, lower-emission and safe school buses to our children."

With each CNG bus valued at \$185,000, the AQMD grant funding allows LAUSD to receive a cost savings of \$138,000 per bus.

“LAUSD has been proactive in acquiring clean-fueled, natural gas school buses to replace its aging diesel models,” said William A. Burke, Ed.D., chairman of the AQMD Governing Board. “This will benefit the thousands of children riding those buses on a daily basis as well as air quality across our region.”

CNG buses run on an alternative fuel for gasoline (petrol) or diesel fuels. Natural, clear and non-corrosive, these vehicles have lower smog-forming emissions than their diesel counterparts. All new school buses come equipped with improved safety features including 3-point lap and pelvic seat restraints, fire suppression systems, additional emergency exit capability, anti-lock braking systems, automatic parking brakes, flame-retardant seats, raised fully padded seatbacks and methane leak detectors on natural gas buses.

Later this year, AQMD expects to award LAUSD an additional \$9.1 million to purchase 60 more CNG buses as well as CNG fueling infrastructure. For more information on the LAUSD CNG School Bus Fleet, please visit www.lausd.net, click “Offices” and select “Transportation Branch.”

###