LAUSD OPENS GREEN FUELING STATION IN SUN VALLEY

Los Angeles – Painted in trademark color “school bus yellow”, the school bus symbolizes the education of our nation’s youth. At the Transportation Branch of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), school bus yellow is turning green. District officials gathered today for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the District’s second Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station, located in Sun Valley. The fueling station currently supports 40 CNG school buses with a planned expansion of up to 100. The first fueling station was established in 2001 and supports 132 CNG buses in the South Bay.

With the financial partnership of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), a Southern California air pollution control agency, the LAUSD has purchased CNG school buses aiding the District to have the largest CNG school bus fleet, comprised of 172 school buses, in the State of California.

“By continually aiming to transition school bus and other heavy-duty diesel fleets to alternative fuel and low-emission vehicles, the District brings a positive and meaningful impact to the air quality for students, staff and the Los Angeles community,” said Board Member Julie Korenstein. “We are proud to present what we hope is the second of many alternative fueling stations in the District.”

With an average bus age of 19.4 years, the District’s school bus fleet may be the oldest in the nation. Comprised of approximately 1300 school buses, supporting instructional programs such as Special Education, Magnet schools, and student auxiliary trips, approximately 900 (60%) are in need of replacement.

“As we replace our aging buses with new safe, energy-efficient, and lower-emission school buses, we will also continue to build infrastructures that support our greening efforts,” said Transportation Branch Director Enrique Boull’t.

In addition to CNG school buses, the District is pursuing cleaner higher mile per gallon vehicles, while moving away from its dependence on diesel fuel including; alternative fueled vehicles such as bio-diesel, propane and higher mileage hybrid vehicles.

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“Environmental sustainability is one LAUSD's highest priorities,” said Neil Gamble, Director of Maintenance and Operations. “We are thrilled to be able to open a second CNG Bus Fueling Station. The District is actively addressing not only a local issue but also a national issue when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By partnering with the AQMD, we look forward to protecting young lungs and improving the environment across the county.”

The LAUSD Transportation Branch provides home-to-school transportation for special District programs including student integration, special education and other transportation services. This amounts to the transportation of more than 59,000 students each day and 2,000 bus routes during a traditional school year. Among its other responsibilities, the Transportation Branch also processes requests, schedules buses, and tracks expenditures for 97,000 auxiliary bus trips; operates five major garage facilities required to service approximately 3,400 District-owned buses, trucks, autos, vans and 3,000 specialized power equipment; and responds to District emergencies. For more information on the Transportation Branch, call 800-LABUSES/1-800-522-8737 or go to http://transportation.lausd.net.

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