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| **Wednesday, July 24, 2013 130724-1**  **In this Issue:**  **High Desert Corridor Community Meetings and Elected Briefings**  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: July 2013** |
| **High Desert Corridor Community Meetings and Elected Briefings**  Yesterday, the High Desert Corridor (HDC) Project Team concluded a series of outreach-related activities including four Community Meetings, two elected official briefings, and an online media briefing to provide updates on the latest Draft EIS/EIR developments. The HDC environmental study will evaluate the potential impacts of constructing a new multipurpose transportation corridor between State Route 14 in Los Angeles County and State Route 18 in San Bernardino County. The HDC project will also consider how a high speed rail connection, a bike way and green energy element could be integrated to create a truly sustainable project. Two meetings were held in San Bernardino County, and two in Los Angeles County. The purpose of this round of meetings was to provide a project update, share highlights of key findings from the Rail Alternatives Analysis, review the refined Purpose and Need statement for the project, and discuss next steps in the process. More than 200 stakeholders and local elected officials participated in person with an additional 176 participating on-line. Each meeting included an informal open house session, followed by a formal presentation and Questions and Answers. Representatives from Metro, Caltrans, and the High Desert Joint Powers Authority were on hand to respond to questions. The live webcast recordings from the July 17th and July 22nd meetings are available for viewing at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/metro-high-desert-corridor>. Metro and Caltrans plan to conduct the next round of outreach in late Fall through the facilitation of "HDC Variation Workshops." These workshops will provide an opportunity for the local community to more closely review the alignments currently under study and provide input. The public release of the Draft EIS/EIR as well as the formal public hearings on the document are anticipated for Spring 2014.  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: July 2013**  Green tips are applicable both at work and at home, this month’s green tips focuses on what green choices work best in the summer. Stay cool by taking advantage of these summer tips!  **Hang me up to dry**  Instead of using the clothes dryer, hang the laundry out to dry in the warm weather for a natural, cheaper, and easier way to do your chores. Clothes dryers use approximately 5.8% of all residential electricity use (Department of Energy statistics). Average households will save $30 a month with the combined savings of not running the dryer and not having to cool the house from the heat generated from the dryer.  **Cruise Cool**  Want to save money on your monthly gas bill? In temperate weather, roll down your windows in the car if you’re cruising at less than 45 MPH. Use air conditioning and keep the windows up if you’re speeding above 45 MPH. The rule of thumb is to keep the windows down while on city streets, then resort to air conditioning when you hit the highway. Every car has a speed at which rolled-down windows cause so much drag as to decrease fuel economy more than a switched-on AC. But, if you stick with the rule of thumb, you can expect to see some savings in your fuel economy. Of course, by using mass transit with the air conditioning on full blast, you still save the most on your gas bill.  **Enjoy Farmer’s Markets**  Summer is the fruitiest season - peaches, nectarines, cherries - what’s not to love? Get out and meet some of your local farmers and support local and organic businesses by getting your groceries at farmer’s markets. Turn grocery shopping into a fun social activity and go with your friends! Find local farmers markets near you [here.](http://www.localharvest.org/)  By implementing these green tips into your home and habits you’ll help in building a more sustainable future and save money every month! | |
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