

DIVISION 7 ACES ANNUAL CHP INSPECTION

- **Manager Cites Teamwork**



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(Sept. 7) For the second time this year, a Transit Operations division has aced a California Highway Patrol inspection. This time, it was the Division 7 maintenance team that impressed the tough-minded inspectors.

In May, Division 1 passed its CHP inspection with flying colors.

Slated to give a thorough going-over to 20 Division 7 coaches, the CHP crew halted after inspecting 16 vehicles and finding only minor flaws - mostly burned-out light bulbs. An excellent result, according to division maintenance manager Mike Bottone, since half the coaches were 10 years old.

"We have a pretty good maintenance team out here and we really push teamwork," he says. "Our mechanics and service attendants speak up if they see a defect. If they find an easier or quicker way of doing something, we'll try it."

One of the best

The CHP also found no violations during the inspection of Division 7 operator training records, driving logs and pay journals. "They said our division was keeping good records," says division transportation manager Sonja Owens. "One of the best in the MTA."

The CHP inspectors selected 10 new NABI CNG coaches and 10 older TMC coaches to inspect. Starting at 9:30 a.m., Aug. 29, the inspection concluded at 11:45 a.m. and the buses were back on the street for their 2 p.m. runs.

Scoring high on CHP inspections is nothing new for Division 7, says Bottone, who has been at the division for seven years. In 1999, CHP inspectors pulled only one of the inspected buses. They pulled two in 1998 and one in 1997.

Division 7 has a maintenance team of 68 mechanics and 40 service attendants. The division operates a fleet of 246 coaches of which 158 are new NABIs and 88 are 10-year-old TMCs. Sixty-eight of the new coaches are assigned to the Metro Rapid fleet.

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