

CNG Buses, Fueling Facility Come to El Monte Division 9

By JOSE UBALDO

(March 15, 2002) The MTA used a media event at El Monte Division 9, today, to introduce the newest of its CNG coaches and to highlight the opening of a new fueling facility to serve the clean-air bus fleet.

Board Chairman John Fasana joined air quality officials, business and community leaders at the news conference to welcome the first of 176 new CNG buses to be fueled and dispatched from the El Monte division. The event drew 10 local media outlets.



Deputy CEO John Catoe powers up new fleet of CNG buses at El Monte Division's new fueling station.

About 40 of the new NABI buses that will be assigned to the San Gabriel Valley are in service today. The balance will be delivered by June. The new CNG station at MTA's El Monte bus yard can fuel approximately 48 buses an hour.

Altogether, the MTA will have 1,900 CNG buses in service throughout Los Angeles County by this summer – more than any other transit property in the nation.

"Compared to the older diesel buses that are being replaced, the MTA's compressed natural gas buses run 83 percent cleaner in terms of emissions," Fasana said, noting that the MTA's CNG fleet will produce 39 fewer tons of air pollution each day.



Board Chairman John Fasana demonstrates fueling procedure for news reporters.

90 percent emissions reduction

The State Air Resources Board (CARB) recently found diesel particulate matter to be a human carcinogen. CNG buses reduce emissions of particulate matter by more than 90 percent.

Against that backdrop, officials from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) cited MTA for its leadership role in promoting alternative fuels for the transit industry. In 1994 the MTA Board adopted a policy that called for purchasing only alternative fuel buses.

"This is a key step forward in our fight to clean up our air in the San Gabriel Valley and the region as a whole," said AQMD Governing Board Chair Norma Glover.

"The MTA's introduction of CNG buses into the San Gabriel Valley couldn't come at a better time."

In the past five years, the MTA has worked to upgrade its bus fleet while expanding service on the street by nearly 500 buses. The buses assigned to El Monte are part of an order for 370 NABI buses being delivered to

the MTA this winter and spring.

MTA has partnered with Hanover Company of Broken Arrow, Okla., to build new CNG fueling facilities at the El Monte division, at Sun Valley Division 15 and downtown. All will be completed this spring. CNG fueling stations already are in operation at most of MTA's other bus divisions.

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