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Metrolink Marks Earth Day in Big Way by Unveiling New Locomotives

- Locomotives will significantly reduce the particulate matter they produce

By NED RACINE, Editor

(April 22, 2008) Metrolink unveiled a more powerful, cleaner locomotive today while touting the importance of commuters choosing trains over automobiles.

The partially electric engines, 10 feet longer than Metrolink’s other locomotives, will produce 50 percent less particulate matter than the 1998 Environmental Protection Agency standard and feature the capacity to pull 10 passenger cars rather than six, transporting an additional 1,200 passengers.

In a statement on Metrolink’s website announcing the new locomotives, Keith Millhouse, Metrolink Vice-Chairman and Moorpark City Councilman, said “You aren’t really green if you aren’t riding public transit. You can drive a hybrid, recycle and plant trees but remember that driving alone to work takes a toll on the environment.”

Metrolink, Southern California’s regional commuter rail service, will add 15 environmentally friendlier trains to the Metrolink fleet over the next year.

Metrolink reports that the MotivePower MPXpress® commuter locomotive will produce approximately 42 percent less oxides of nitrogen when compared to other trains in Southern California.

According to Metrolink, its locomotives already are the cleanest in the industry, being fueled by ultra low-sulfur diesel fuel. The new locomotives, costing \$1.9 million each, have an engine start-stop technology that reduces emissions produced during idling by one-half.