

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Ready to Roll

- West Valley Division Mechanic Dave Sweany is among 4,000 would-be owners already on the waiting list for the Aptera, a three-wheeled, all-electric and hybrid vehicle being made in San Diego County



Metro Mechanic Gets Charged Up for New Ride

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Oct. 8, 2009) Metro West Valley Division Mechanic Leader Dave Sweany can't wait to try out his new ride.

Sweany, a hybrid vehicle enthusiast, is among the first 4,000 people across the world who deposited \$500 to purchase an Aptera, a high-tech three-wheel hybrid vehicle.

Produced in Southern California, the futuristic vehicle is often described as a cross between a motorcycle and a car.



View at [myFoxla.com](#)

Metro Mechanic Dave Sweany on Fox 11 News report: "It's definitely a real car and worth the wait to get."

Can't hook up at work? Check it out on myFoxla.com at
http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/scitech/Are_Drivers_Ready_for_the_Aptera_20090603

The first batch of Apteras will be completely electric and are expected to be available to buyers in November. However, Sweany will have to wait for his car - a electric/gas fueled hybrid - until the second batch of Apteras are delivered sometime in 2010.

"This is a real thing. It's not a hoax," Sweany said, noting that he personally conducted extensive research on the new vehicle and even put a sledgehammer to the body to test it.

Made almost completely out of heavy duty composite material, the Aptera is expected to have a price tag of between \$25,000 and \$40,000 and is among the latest green hybrid vehicles available to consumers who want fuel efficiency at a somewhat affordable price.

With its futuristic yet practical ability, Aptera company officials hope their creation becomes the next Honda-like vehicle for the middle-class consumer.

Source: myFoxla.com



Electric vehicles like the Aptera are the future, he predicts.

"We're in an era of big change. They (auto manufacturers) could've done a lot of these things in the 70s, but chose not to and now they are trying to play catch up," he said, adding that he's already checked out Metro's hybrid buses currently being tested.

The new buses, he said, are "amazing" not only for the fuel economy and power, but also for their easy handling.

The sleek, futuristic Aptera – named from the Greek word meaning "wingless" – depends on lithium batteries, while Metro's hybrid buses run on ultra capacitors, a high-powered, energy dense electronic unit that provides power during acceleration and then quickly recharges itself during normal braking.

The Aptera's design team claims the vehicle can travel 100 miles on a standard 100 volt, eight hour charge. Not only will the car save on gasoline, it is equipped with airbags and air conditioning.

Sweany has a passion for gadgets that's evident in his love for radio control aircraft and the time he devotes as a board representative of the San Fernando Valley Flyers – a group of fellow remote-control model aviators, which last year, boasted some 350 members.



Sweany put his own alternative vehicle on display at the Metro Bus Rodeo Car and Motorcycle Show: a radio-controlled Ultimate flying plane.

Sweany was interviewed about his Aptera purchase as he displayed his radio controlled Ultimate flying plane on a recent segment on the FOX 11 news.

"I've been flying since I was knee high to a grass hopper," he said adding that he grew up in the desert where not too many hobbies were available.

A 27-year Metro employee, Sweany says he's excited about the Aptera for several reasons but mostly because his new ride will need very little maintenance. And while he relishes his career as a third shift Metro Mechanic Lead, Sweany says he looks forward to the idea that he will only need to worry about changing the tires and brake pads. "No more tune ups and oil changes. I just want to get in and go and fly by gas stations," he said.