



NEWS

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'Rolling smog busters'

MTA POWERS UP FIRST CLEAN AIR BUSES, NEW CNG FUELING STATION SERVING SMOGGY SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Air quality in the San Gabriel Valley is about to improve with MTA's introduction of a fleet of new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and a new CNG fueling facility at MTA's El Monte bus yard.

MTA Board Chairman John Fasana, who is also a Duarte City Councilman, today joined air quality officials, business and community leaders at a press conference where the first of 176 new clean-fuel buses were fueled and dispatched from MTA's El Monte bus division.

About 40 of the new North American Bus Industries buses that will be assigned to the San Gabriel Valley are in service today and the balance will be delivered by this June.

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

"When compared to the older diesel buses that are being replaced, MTA's compressed natural gas buses run 83 percent cleaner in terms of emissions and our entire fleet will reduce more than 39 tons of air pollution each day," Fasana said. "The Los Angeles region has the worst smog in the

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MTA Clean Air Buses

nation. This improvement in air quality makes a positive difference in the quality of life for residents of the San Gabriel Valley and the entire Los Angeles basin."

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 of Directors adopted a policy that called for purchasing only alternative fueled 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. "MTA's introduction of CNG buses into the San Gabriel Valley couldn't come at a better time."

CNG engines generally burn cleaner than other fuels. This helps prolong the engine life of bus engines and improves reliability. That translates into better service on the street.

In the past five years MTA has strove to upgrade its bus fleet while also expanding service on the street by nearly 500 buses. The buses assigned to El Monte are part of an order for 370 buses, manufactured by North American Bus Industries based in Anniston, Ala., which are being delivered to MTA this winter and spring. In addition to running on clean fuel, the buses

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feature a low floor design, which is easier for passengers to board and exit, surveillance cameras on the buses and other features.

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

The new CNG fueling station at MTA's El Monte bus yard can fuel approximately 48 buses an hour.

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