



Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

# Metro News

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## METRO AND KINKISHARYO DELIVER ON JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROMISES

Since beginning operations in Palmdale working on a contract for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to produce a new generation of light rail vehicles ([LVR~~R~~LRV](#)), Kinkisharyo International has added 550 new jobs with a total expenditure of nearly \$49 million to the north L. A. County economy, Metro announced today.

The newest [LVR~~R~~LRV](#), the model P-3010, is assembled at Kinkisharyo's facility in Palmdale in northern Los Angeles County. The Metro Board approved a contract in August 2012 for the purchase of 235 light rail vehicles that will eventually be used across the Metro Rail system.

"Kinkisharyo has spent about \$10 million more on wages and benefits than it committed to," said Metro Chair John Fasana. "That's very helpful to our region's workers and local economy."

The first workers were hired in Palmdale in October 2013 and began assembling car shells in June 2014. The company has hired 404 workers and brought in 146 additional subcontractors. The minimum wage earned at the facility is \$17 per hour with an average wage of \$21 per hour.

"Building rail cars for L.A. County by local workers was our goal and the success of the venture is testament to cooperation between business, government and labor," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro First Vice Chair Eric Garcetti.

Metro initially committed to purchase 78 [LVRs-LRVs](#) and subsequently exercised all four options for an additional 157 of the smooth and quiet-riding P-3010 vehicles. The options triggered a provision requiring Kinkisharyo to expand its facility from assembling the rail cars to partial manufacturing of the car shells — work that had been previously done exclusively in Japan.

~~"Jobs that were reserved for technicians in Japan~~[Expanding our order of rail cars has translated into jobs are now done by our](#)for local workers in the Antelope Valley," said Metro CEO Phillip Washington. "The facility in Palmdale includes tasks that allows workers to build skills they can use as a stepping stone for their future careers."

Kinkisharyo has been delivering four [LVRs-LRVs](#) monthly with a total of 35 in service currently on the Metro Gold and Expo Lines. The new cars [delivered in the future](#) will eventually be used on Crenshaw/LAX Line, due for completion in 2019.

### About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.4 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County. Through its oversight of one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is changing the urban landscape of one of the country's largest, most populous counties.

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