

CONTRACT ML06054
**PURCHASE OF THREE COMPRESSED NATURAL
GAS AND TWO LIQUID PROPANE GAS HEAVY
DUTY VEHICLES**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

May 7, 2015

*Prepared for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review
Committee (MSRC) Under the AB 2766 Discretionary
Fund Work Program*

Acknowledgements

This report was submitted in fulfillment of ML06054 and the Purchase of Three Compressed Natural Gas and Two Liquid Propane Heavy Duty Vehicles through Reynolds Buick by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Work was completed as of January 11, 2011.

Disclaimer

The statement and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Final Report

Public Works has chosen to pursue projects that will result in improved air quality throughout the County and enhance the overall quality of life for all residents. The projects implemented by Public Works represent the continuing commitment to reduce vehicle emissions and improve the air quality within the South Coast Air Basin and our local communities.

The purpose of this project was to purchase alternative fuel vehicles to replace older, diesel powered equipment. These vehicles included four patch trucks (two fueled by compressed natural gas and two by propane), and one dump truck (fueled by compressed natural gas). Public Works sought out a partnership with Reynolds Buick to purchase the new alternative fuel vehicles. The vehicles were ordered on July 9, 2009 and were placed into service by January 2011. The vehicles replaced are sold at a public auction within 60 days of new vehicle deliveries.

The acquisition of these vehicles helped to reduce hydrocarbons emissions by 30 percent, nitrogen oxide (NO_x) by 90 percent, and particulate matter by 100 percent.

One additional propane powered dump truck was also purchased under this grant. However, due to continuing engine-related issues (detailed below), the decision was made to convert the equipment to unleaded fuel to increase operational efficiency. Public Works will not be billing the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee for partial grant reimbursement for this truck.

Public Works has monitored the performance of the remaining five alternative fuel vehicles purchased under this grant. Complications experienced included coolant leaks, fuel leaks, engine oil leaks, and engine problems (including rough idling and engine not starting). The vehicles were placed out of service and repaired on several different occasions. Public Works plans to continue observing the vehicles and will report any performance issues to the manufacturer/dealer.



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Public Works Fleet Growing Greener



In its commitment to sustainable business practices, LA County Public Works is investing in a clean air future for LA County by converting its large fleet of service vehicles to cleaner-burning natural gas.

Since 2008, Public Works has converted dozens of heavy-duty work trucks to natural gas operation, including dump trucks, asphalt patch trucks, and street sweepers. To support this transition, the Department's Hollydale road maintenance yard was upgraded recently to

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accommodate in-house fueling and natural gas-vehicle maintenance, says Mark Heighes, a power equipment technician supervisor.

“We already have about 50 natural gas-operated vehicles in service, and the number will grow as supporting infrastructure develops,” Heighes said.

“By transitioning to this alternative fuel, the Department is reducing its carbon footprint and helping to clean up our air for generations to come,” he added.

A large portion of the \$1.9 million in facility upgrades and vehicle conversion costs was funded by grants awarded to the Department by the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee, which funds projects that reduce air pollution from motor vehicles within the South Coast Air District in Southern California.

Because it is domestically available and clean-burning, natural gas is a cost-efficient and environmentally-friendly fuel alternative that has seen major growth. While similar to gasoline or diesel vehicles with regard to power, acceleration, and cruising speed, natural gas-operated vehicles produce lower levels of harmful emissions, such as greenhouse gases. They also save \$1.50 to \$2 per equivalent gallon at the pump and cost less to maintain long-term.



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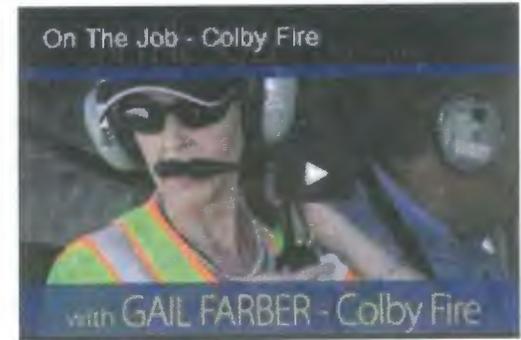
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Currently, natural gas powers about 112,000 vehicles in the United States and roughly 14.8 million vehicles worldwide, with significant popularity among mass transit systems. In fact, with 2,200 buses using the alternative fuel, Metro runs its fleet almost exclusively on compressed natural gas.

Story by Aleen Bedrosian, photo by Fausto Rowlan



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