

**CONTRACT MS10015**  
**PURCHASE OF TWO HEAVY DUTY COMPRESSED**  
**NATURAL GAS DUMP TRUCKS**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

April 30, 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 MS10015 and the Purchase of Two Heavy Duty Compressed Natural Gas Dump Trucks through Los Angeles Freightliner 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 March 13, 2012.

## **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 two alternative fuel vehicles to replace older, diesel powered equipment. The vehicles purchased were two dump trucks, both fueled by compressed natural gas. Public Works sought out a partnership with Los Angeles Freightliner to purchase the new alternative fuel vehicles. The vehicles were ordered in February 2011 and they were placed into service on March 13, 2012. 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 59 percent, nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) by 96 percent, and particulate matter by 100 percent.

Public Works has monitored the performance of the two alternative fuel vehicles purchased under this grant. On one occasion, there were reports of the engine misfiring, which was diagnosed and repaired under the emissions warranty for the vehicle. A gas leak was also reported and repaired. There have been no additional major mechanical or technical issues related to the CNG vehicles. Public Works plans to continue observing the vehicles and will report any performance issues to the manufacturer/dealer.



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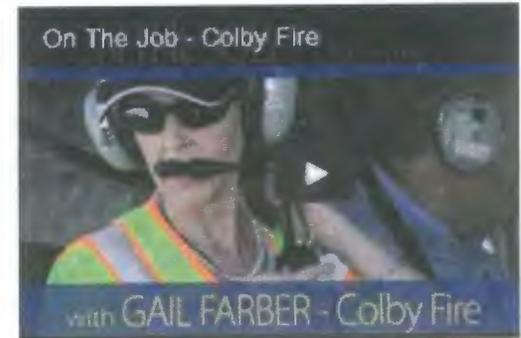
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Currently, natural gas powers about 112,000 vehicles in the United States and roughly 14.8 million vehicles worldwide, with significant popularity among mass transit systems. In fact, with 2,200 buses using the alternative fuel, Metro runs its fleet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

*Story by Aleen Bedrosian, photo by Fausto Rowlan*



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