

**Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
2005/06 AB2766 Local Government Match Program**

**CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY**

**AB2766/ML06033**

**Purchase of Five Heavy-Duty CNG Vehicles**

**CONTRACT PERIOD**

**November 17, 2006 – November 16, 2008**

**FINAL REPORT**

**May 1, 2009**

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

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
AB 2766/ML06033

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**AB 2766/ML06033**

**Final Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This report was submitted in fulfillment of Contract AB 2766/ML06033, Purchase of Five Heavy Duty CNG Vehicles, by the City of Cathedral City (City) under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Procurement of the specified vehicles was completed in November 2008.

**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 materials reported herein is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Implementing Agency

The City of Cathedral City was the lead agency for this project.

Subcontractors

Qualified subcontractors were used for specific components of the project.

Equipment Dealer:

Palm Springs Motors, Inc.  
69-200 Highway 111  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

The equipment dealer provided specifications for the equipment and supervised the conversion of the vehicles to compressed natural gas. The equipment dealer also provided delivery and training on the new vehicles.

Key Project Staff

Cathedral City staff members were responsible for the success of the project.

Deanna Pressgrove, Environmental Conservation Manger for the City of Cathedral City  
Deanna Pressgrove had overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the procurement project.

Pat Milos, Parks and Facilities Manager for the City of Cathedral City  
Pat Milos had responsibility for the development of the vehicles specifications and inspection of the vehicles upon delivery. Mr. Milos coordinated the conversion of the vehicles to compressed natural gas and supervised staff training.

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
AB 2766/ML06033

**Summary and Conclusions**

Scope

The project proposed in Contract ML06033 involved the following elements:

- procurement of five compressed natural gas vehicles
- preparation and submission of reports

Purpose

To meet fleet rule 1191 and 1196 to support the goals of clean air and a healthier environment.

Background

Assembly Bill 2766 provides that a component of the Vehicle Registration fee be allocated by the AQMD to cities and counties to implement and monitor programs to reduce air pollution from vehicles. The MSRC, through a grant application process, administers 30% of AB 2766 funds. The remaining 70% of AB 2766 funds are distributed to cities on a population-based formula. These funds are to be used for clean air programs.

The MSRC announced clean air project funding opportunities exclusively to cities and counties within the AQMD. The funds available were designed to encourage the construction of clean air fueling facilities, and the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. Staff determined that funds in the amount of \$125,000 were available to the City for this purpose. Staff proposed to City Council to use these funds towards the purchase of five compressed natural gas (CNG) heavy-duty vehicles.

In January 2006, the MSRC accepted the City's grant application for \$125,000 to be used to offset the cost of replacing five vehicles. The AQMD formally approved the grant funding in March 2006.

Contract History

The timeline of the application and contract process is detailed in Table 1: Contact History.

Table 1: Contract History

	MILESTONE	COMPLETION
1.	Application submitted to MSRC <i>2005/06 Local Government Match Program</i>	January 11, 2006
2.	AQMD Board approves \$125,000 for five CNG vehicles (\$25,000 each)	March 3, 2006
3.	Cathedral City Manager signs contract with AQMD	October 4, 2006
4.	AQMD executes contract	November 17, 2006
5.	Request for contract extension and revised project schedule submitted	November 6, 2007
6.	Interim report submitted to MSRC	November 6, 2007
7.	Amended contract received	April 11, 2007
8.	Final report submitted to MSRC	May 2009

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
AB 2766/ML06033

**Description of Work Performed**

The City of Cathedral City successfully completed the procurement of five CNG vehicles.

The timeline of the procurement process is detailed in Table 2: Project Schedule.

Table 2: Project Schedule

	MILESTONE	START DATE	COMPLETION
1.	Sign contract with MSRC and receive authorization to proceed	March 2006	November 2006
2.	Review internal vehicle needs and budget	December 2006	January 2006
3.	Finalize vehicle options for five vehicles	January 2007	June 2007
4.	Receive City Council approval to purchase vehicles	June 2007	June 2007
5.	Complete bid package and forward to vendors	July 2007	July 2007
6.	Receive bids, select vendor and process purchase order	December 2007	February 2008
7.	Schedule and conduct staff training	April 2008	May 2008
8.	Receive and test vehicles	May 2008	October 2008
9.	Assign vehicles to service routes	June 2008	October 2008
10.	Complete interim report	June 2008	June 2008
11.	Process all requests for reimbursements	July 2008	March 2009
12.	Complete final report	October 2008	May 2009

**Problems Encountered**

Purchase of CNG Vehicles

Limited local funds and rising vehicle costs impacted the placement of orders for the street sweepers. In addition, delivery time for the sweepers was longer than anticipated. Vehicles no longer come dedicated to CNG but instead are ordered "alternative fuel ready" and then must be converted to CNG. This adds considerable time to the purchasing process.

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
AB 2766/ML06033

### **Photographs and Public Outreach**

The City of Cathedral City realized the need for a well-structured and effective public outreach plan to successfully implement the Local Government Match Program. The MSRC and the City strongly support the switch from gasoline and diesel fuels to compressed natural gases. Both agencies are expanding significant financial resources, time and manpower to improve air quality by reducing the amount of air pollution unleashed into the environment. An outstanding public outreach program will inform Cathedral City residents of the program's goals and positive outcomes, and educate the public regarding the multiple benefits of compressed natural gas vehicles.

The first mission of the Public Outreach Plan was to foster increased knowledge and understanding of the environment and our necessary role in the protection of the planet and its precious resources. For this specific plan, it was imperative that the Environmental Conservation Department of the City, led by Deanna Pressgrove, disseminated facts and information on the harmful effects of diesel emissions into the local atmosphere. Next, the staff must extol the virtues of compressed natural gases to all city residents.

The most important aspect of the outreach plan was to make certain that the population of Cathedral City, California knows that the replacement of one gasoline or diesel-engine vehicle with a CNG vehicle is improving ambient air quality throughout the Coachella Valley. Conservation, however, does not need to stop with the Local Government Match Program. The Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) and the MSRC have extensive programs to improve the nation's air quality. Locally, The Cathedral City Conservation Department offers many different opportunities for residents to protect the planet through conservation, recycling and reuse. The Outreach Plan will introduce local citizens to the ongoing programs and projects in their own community.

A wide range of media outlets was employed to convey the program's messages. The Environmental Conservation Department posted complete program details and news updates on the City web site, [www.cathedralcity.gov](http://www.cathedralcity.gov), with a link to the compressed natural gas vehicles website ([www.cngvc.org](http://www.cngvc.org)) for further information on the benefits of alternate fuels. This website displays news, events and interesting links to other pertinent websites. As always, the City will continue to hold various recycling and reuse events throughout the year, detailed on their website. Citizens are alerted to upcoming events through the use of colorful and informative mailings, such as postcard reminders and a yearly event calendar. The Environmental

Conservation Department will send a specific fact sheet and eye-catching flyer explaining the Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Program to all Cathedral City residents.

The Environmental Conservation Department will also contact local television and radio stations to encourage them to track the progress of the program through frequent stories and articles. The media will be contacted to help advertise any upcoming program events, like the unveiling of the five natural gas- powered hauling vehicles in Cathedral City. The Desert Sun, devoted to the locals, will undoubtedly be there to cover this event and the overall story of Cathedral City's gradual move from diesel to natural gas vehicles. Throughout the year, the City staff can hold events, separately or conjunction with other recycling drives to show that the community will greatly benefit from a reduction in toxic diesel fuel emissions.

Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee  
AB 2766/ML06033

As more people become aware of the program through television and newspaper exposure, it is highly likely that local businesses, government agencies and individuals who are excited by the prospect of improving the quality of life in the Coachella Valley will provide support to compliment the generous contributions of the MSRC and Cathedral City.

The replacement of diesel-fueled vehicles with natural gas vehicles accomplishes several far-reaching goals. Toxic diesel exhaust fumes are being reduced. With a decreased amount of air pollution on side streets and busy freeways, the quality of life is improving daily for the youth and adults of Cathedral City. The Local Government Matching Program serves this Coachella Valley community by promoting energy conservation and environmental education for all of Cathedral City.

Table 3: Public Outreach Plan

	PROJECT MILESTONE	COMPLETION
1.	Create website banner and place CNGV info on Cathedral City website. Frequently update with news and events	November 2008
2.	Train Cathedral City workers regarding benefit of CNG and the details of program	November 2008
3.	Train workers on CNG vehicle safety and use	October 2008
4.	Mail out flyers/postcards on program to City residents	December 2007
5.	Send press releases to news stations, papers	December 2007
6.	Contact local TV, papers, magazines to cover continuing story	November 2008
7.	Coordinate two to three events yearly to demonstrate benefits or CNG over diesel and gasoline fuels	November 2008

Photos have been submitted separately per on-line instructions.

### Emission Benefits

The operation of the five CNG vehicles is expected to reduce air pollutants as follows: 1010 lbs per year of NOX and 70 lbs of PM10.

### Conclusions

The purchase and operation of CNG vehicles is an example of Cathedral City's commitment to air pollution emission reductions. The emission reduction is one more step in providing a cleaner environment for the community.

Each of the vehicles funded under this contract are obligated to accrue at least 85% of its annual mileage or engine hours of operation within the geographical boundaries of the South Coast Air Quality Management District for a period of no less than five (5) years from the date the vehicle enters service. This obligation shall survive the expiration of the contract and continue in full force and effect until the geographical restriction period set forth has been satisfied. Any AB2766 Discretionary Fund project for the purchase of new clean fuel vehicles shall be required to scrap older, polluting vehicles which would be removed or retired from service.