

# **PROJECT SUMMARY (FINAL REPORT)**

Contract No. ML12045C

**Development and Operation of a New CNG Station Project**

City of Baldwin Park

October 5, 2022

*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 Contract ML12045C,*

*Development and Operation of a New CNG Station Project,*

*by the City of Baldwin Park under the (partial) sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Work was completed as of 02/05/2021.*

## 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 (South Coast AQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported herein is not to be constructed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.*

# Summary and Conclusions

## 1. Scope, purpose, and background of the project.

To improve air quality in the region, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) established a grant program to fund solutions to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles through its Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) grant funding program. Both the City of Baldwin Park (City) and Los Angeles County collaborated with SCAQMD for the establishment of a CNG refueling station within this region to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of its surrounding and adjacent communities.

The City was awarded a grant of \$400,000 from SCAQMD's Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) under its Local Government Match Program to construct a CNG refueling station on City-owned property. The City Council approved a cost sharing agreement with Los Angeles County to contribute an equal share of \$400,000 toward the construction of a refueling station and to supply the County with compressed natural gas for its maintenance vehicles.

The new station is located at 14727 Ramona Boulevard, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 on property owned by the City of Baldwin Park and adjacent to a County of Los Angeles fleet yard. The City's fleet yard is located .5 miles away at 14403 Pacific Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706. In addition to serving the City and County CNG fleet vehicles, the station is well situated to attract school district, municipal and commercial CNG fleet vehicles from neighboring communities. It may also attract CNG trucks, vans and buses travelling on the nearby San Bernardino freeway (I-10) and San Gabriel freeway (I-605).

Feature improvements being dedicated to the public are as follows:

- Two fast fill dispensers
- Four slow-fill station units on county yard for county vehicles
- Galileo System CNG compressor unit
- Installation of public sidewalk work around the site
- Installation of new lighting for nighttime fueling
- New asphalt, crack seal, and slurry sealing of the existing parking lot including restriping
- Enclosure for aesthetics and sound reduction of the Galileo System

The city of Baldwin Park (City) installed a compressed natural gas (CNG) station on Assessor's Parcel Number: 8437-013-907, located at the northwest corner of Ramona Boulevard and Badillo Street in Baldwin Park, California 91706.

The CNG fueling station is described as follows:

- A. Compressor(s) providing at least 750 scfm compression capability
- B. At least two fast-fill dispensers
- C. Storage Capacity of at least 6,000 scf
- D. Accessible to the public 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

## **2. Work Performed**

The work included the installation of CNG compressor (Galileo Micro-Box unit), dryer, blower, dispenser, and time-fill posts per attached site plans, including final inspection and as-built drawings. Other work included the paving of the existing parking and fill station area, including the slow fill area.

Concrete work included curb, gutter, driveway, and sidewalk was constructed which included minor grading.

Utility work included the following:

- Electrical- Replacement of existing SCE cut-Service (480V, 3-phase, 4 wire), off pole, new transformer (300 kVA, 3 phase), vault, switch gear (600 Amp), breakers box, stepdown transformer with controls and installation of streetlights.
- Gas – two 2-inch connections were manifold as part of the Gas Company MSA into a metered connection from a 2" inch high pressure gas main.
- Water- a 12" water main was rerouted around the project site by the water Company.
- Communications- A wireless secure satellite internet connection was installed for card payment transactions. The vendor was Hughes Net Communications.

### **Problem Encountered**

1. Financial department delay – contractor payment delay
  - a. While the city is trying to find the Verifone system Galileo uses in the dispenser, it appeared that the system was at its end of life and no longer supported by Verifone. It took the city a while to identify an alternative option that would work with the Galileo system. Due to the change of privacy protection standards, OPW is the only system that met the new standard. We purchased the new equipment but before it could be installed the City needed to set up a merchant services account with the only provider that approved that equipment, NBS. Then the City Finance Director retired, and the position was vacant. Once the City was ready to go, we found out that NBS was not

accepting new clients because they are in the middle of changing banks, a process that is apparently taking months. OPW is working on getting other processors, but none is approved yet.

## 2. Recent vandalism

- a. Vandalism was reported by the City of Baldwin Park – Public Works where the site was being accessed illegally by homeless transients. The enclosed area was used as a living space at night and components of the Galileo fueling system were damaged. Staff has upgraded the existing enclosure by replacing the chain-link fence gate with a metal-sheath gate. Currently Galileo is finalizing the system assessment and establishing a work plan to finalize the repairs. Galileo will provide an itemized list of parts necessary to complete the repairs along with their lead-times.

### **Cost Projections**

The City of Baldwin Park has been building a public access CNG station to provide CNG fuel to City and County CNG vehicles, as well as other fleets and the general public. The station is nearing completion and will be ready to be put into service in the next few months. A portion of the scope of work of the grant from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) was a study to set the fuel price for the station.

Based on the limited information currently available, the recommend initially pricing the fuel at the Baldwin Park station is based on the prices at nearby CNG public fueling stations. An assessment of six nearby stations (utility owned and privately owned) provided a wide range of prices, from \$1.81 to \$5.35 a spread of nearly 300%. The recommended price is at the low end of the range--**\$2.50 to \$2.75 per gasoline gallon equivalent** to attract new users.

Since the commodity price form Southern California Gas Company changes monthly, the City will need to monitor the Gas Company's pricing announcements and adjust as necessary. After 6 to 12 months of operation, the City is recommended to do a ground up cost study to see whether the City is covering its operating costs for the station and making a profit.

## 3. Future actions and further study

As indicated on the pricing study, the City intends to assess the site for 6-12 months of operation to analyze and prepare a ground-up cost study in an effort to understand the operating costs for the station and at that time re-assessing the current price to fuel at the site.

The City will also work to establish a maintenance agreement with Galileo.

#### 4. Project Photographs



## 5. Press Releases & Supporting Documents

The City of Baldwin Park held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the CNG project on February 5, 2021. The Director of Public Works of City of Baldwin Park, Sam Gutierrez, gave the opening remarks and introduced the Mayor of the City, Emmanuel J. Estrada. The Mayor gave his short speech introducing the funding partners and expressing his excitement for this project. Senator Susan Rubio also sent her congratulations and warm words during the ceremony.



Event recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcwfluqDKBM>