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Omnitrans Celebrates New CNG Fueling System

(San Bernardino, CA) Omnitrans recently celebrated the completion of new state-of-the-art CNG fueling systems at its San Bernardino and Montclair, California facilities. The system replaces Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) equipment used by the public transit agency since 2002.

"This is a significant milestone in our commitment to be a good neighbor, a leader in clean fuel technology, and a good steward of public funds," said Omnitrans CEO/General Manager P. Scott Graham. The large LNG storage tanks used in the prior system generated concern from area residents.



Omnitrans CEO/General Manager P. Scott Graham addresses crowd at CNG fueling system completion ceremony.

The switch is projected to save Omnitrans \$1.6 million annually in fuel costs compared to LNG. The San Bernardino site includes three CNG compressors and the Montclair site has two compressors. Combined, these meet the daily fleet demand of the CNG equivalent of about 10,000 gallons of gasoline. Each bus takes less than eight minutes to fuel.

"We applaud this demonstration of leadership in clean fuel technology," said Rancho Cucamonga Council Member and Omnitrans Interim Board Vice Chair Sam Spagnolo. "We are proud of our 100% CNG fleet of 176 buses and the fact that we are transitioning our Access fleet to CNG. Together we are making a difference in the fight for cleaner air in our region."

Funding for the \$8.5 million project came from the Federal Transit Administration, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and local funds.

GP Strategies of Escondido California was responsible for final design and building of CNG fueling systems. STV developed conceptual designs. Southern California Gas Company is the fuel supplier and provided coordination during design and the installation of new pipeline and gas meters.

System safety features include 24/7 local and remote monitoring systems, methane detection systems, automatic and manual emergency shutdown, fail safe isolation valves, and pressure relief devices. Daily inspections are done by trained Omnitrans staff. GP Strategies conducts weekly inspections.

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