

Contract Number ML 11024

**Purchase of Three-Heavy Duty Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
Shuttle Buses**

**County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
December 6, 2017**

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

Acknowledgements

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This report is submitted in fulfillment of Contract Number ML11024, the purchase of three heavy duty compressed natural gas shuttle buses, by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). The work was completed on January 7, 2016.

Disclaimer

The statements and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee 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 construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Project Description & Work Performed

The project involved the purchase of three heavy-duty compressed natural gas (CNG) shuttle buses for the Willowbrook Shuttle Service. This is part of County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works' program to provide shuttle buses with new, fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles. Prior to the procurement of the three new CNG shuttle buses, the service used three gasoline contractor owned shuttle buses.

The three new 2015 El Dorado National – Aero Elite 290 Ford shuttle buses meet all ADA requirements and are equipped with wheelchair ramps. Each vehicle accommodates a maximum of 26 seated passengers or 22 seated passengers with two wheelchair positions. To comply with California Air Resource Board (CARB) Clean Fuel Regulation and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Clean-On-Road Transit Bus Rule, three vehicles are powered by very low emission CNG engines.

Public Works received approval from the County's purchasing agent, Internal Services Department to piggyback on the existing California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) contract to streamline purchasing efforts without requiring a Request for Proposal.

CalACT and Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) formed a purchasing cooperative to award a contract to procure various types of transit vehicles. This form of procurement, known as a menu style bid, enables transit agencies to piggyback with the purchasing cooperative and select vehicles from a menu of choices from multiple vendors/manufacturers that best suit their requirements without having to do their own solicitation of bids.

MBTA and other regional transit agencies developed the bid documents, vehicle specifications, and vendor procedures while ensuring full compliance with the State and Federal requirements. This enabled Public Works to comply with Federal grant requirements when using the CalACT contract.

Problems Encountered

There were no significant challenges or delays encountered with the purchase of the three El Dorado National – Aero Elite 290 shuttle buses. Construction of the vehicles started in February 2015 and was completed in December 2015. The new vehicles were placed into service in January 2016. Minor warranty issues have been properly handled by the contractor and resolved within an acceptable period of time.

The vehicles are currently in operation on the Willowbrook shuttle service in the unincorporated County area of Athens Village, Rosewood, West Rancho Dominguez, and Willowbrook.

Emission Benefits

The benefits from the use of these CNG, fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles will provide substantial reductions of hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and greenhouse gas emissions. CNG reduces maintenance costs and extends engine life. Additionally, these new shuttle buses are at least 25 percent more fuel-efficient compared to older contractor-provided buses that are used in other County fixed-route services.

These clean-burning shuttle buses are serving the transit needs of the communities served by the shuttle service. By procuring clean-burning shuttle buses for the service, we will reduce vehicle emissions in the Willowbrook communities.

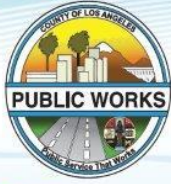
Photographs & Outreach

A press release announcing the introduction of the three new CNG-fueled shuttle buses into service on January 19, 2016 is shown in Attachment A.

Photographs of the three CNG-fueled shuttle buses displaying the MSRC decal are shown in Attachment B.

Summary and Conclusions

The acquisition of these three CNG shuttle buses is a step in the right direction to modernize the County's fleet of aging vehicles. These clean vehicles also help to reduce the emission of potent greenhouse gases in the communities they serve. During this period of high fuel costs, operation of these vehicles presents another transportation option for County residents. On a typical service day, each vehicle will take an average of 6 passenger vehicles off the road for each hour of operation. The new buses continue to allow passenger to be transported to and from regional transit connections.



PRESS RELEASE

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

January 19, 2016

New Willowbrook Shuttles help to keep air clean

In a fresh start to the new year, LA County Public Works placed three new clean-fuel buses in service on Willowbrook Shuttle routes "A" and "B", on Monday, January 18, 2016.

These vehicles, built on Ford F-550 chassis, replace for the former diesel-powered, trolley-theme buses that were retired a few years ago. Residents and visitors are now able to travel throughout the community on low-emission 22-seat Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles.

Given the unpredictable nature of gasoline prices, the buses offer a convenient way to get around town for only 25 cents. The route also accepts 30-day Metro and EZ passes.

Departing from the Hahn's Shopping Plaza approximately every 60 minutes for Route "A," and every 30 minutes for Route "B," the shuttles provide direct access to shopping centers, senior centers, youth and community centers, and the Metro Rail station. All users, from youth to seniors, are encouraged to use this service for their local trips.

Hours of operation for the shuttle service are:

- Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The shuttle service, managed by the LA County Public Works, received \$90,000 in grant funding from the regional Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MRSC) to assist with the purchase of the three clean-fuel buses. On-going operating expenses are provided with funding from the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas through Proposition "A" Local Return Transit Program funds.

For more Willowbrook Shuttle information, contact John Zeigler at (626) 458-5914 or by email at jzeigler@dpw.lacounty.gov. Route and schedule information can be viewed by visiting the web site at: www.lagobus.info.

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Attachment B



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Project supported by



Clean Transportation
Funding from the MSRC
Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee

www.cleantransportationfunding.org