

East Valley LCNG Fueling Facility Upgrade and Expansion

In August 2008, the City of Los Angeles completed a project to upgrade and expand the East Valley Liquefied and Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG) Fueling Station. This facility, located in Sun Valley, California, north of downtown Los Angeles, is currently the largest LNG fueling facility in the United States, with an on-site storage capacity of 60,000 gallons of LNG. The LNG is used to fuel a fleet of approximately 120 LNG-powered refuse collection vehicles (RCV's) operated by the City. This facility also has the capability to re-gasify a portion of the LNG and to store and dispense it as CNG. The CNG is used to fuel a portion of the City's growing fleet of CNG-powered street sweepers as well as other medium- and heavy-duty CNG vehicles that are being added to the City's fleet as older diesel models are retired.

The East Valley Yard, originally completed in 2004, has served as major fueling hub, exclusively for City fleet vehicles, since its development. The facility provides fuel to the home-based fleet of LNG-powered RCV's and dispenses CNG to vehicles based at at least eight (8) nearby City yards. As the City's fleet of CNG vehicles has continued to quickly expand, so has the need for increased fueling capabilities. An Alternative Fuel Consolidation Report, prepared for the City in 2006, anticipated this increased demand and recommended that the pumping, vaporization, compression, and storage capabilities for CNG fuel be expanded at this site.

This upgrade and expansion project involved the installation of a new LNG pumps, a new LNG vaporizer, new compressors, and three (3) additional CNG storage tubes. Additional work included site preparation, such as the installation of equipment pads, and other associated work such as tubing installation, replacement, and insulation. The end result is that the production CNG has been made much more efficient and rapid while effectively doubling the amount of CNG stored and available at the site. This will allow for dependable and efficient fueling operations capable of meeting the increasing demand in this area, which will in turn allow City staff to provide vital services to the citizens of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles has long been a leader in the adoption and use of alternative fuels and clean fuel technologies. The City has been actively retiring its fleet of diesel-powered RCV's and street sweepers and replacing them with LNG and CNG models, respectively, since 2001. In coming years the City will power its entire fleet of approximately 650 RCV's and over 160 street sweepers using clean-burning natural gas. In addition, the City continues expand it's alternative fuel fleet with the addition of other medium- and heavy-duty natural gas vehicles as models become available and older models are retired. Given that natural gas models provide a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to their diesel counterparts, the positive impacts to air quality in the region are significant. The upgrade and expansion of this facility demonstrates the City's continued commitment to alternative fuels and improved air quality for the citizens of the greater Los Angeles area.

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