



Ocean View School District

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES SIX “CLEAN AIR” COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES THROUGH AQMD GRANT

The Ocean View School District is excited about the arrival of six new “clean air,” compressed natural gas buses (CNG). These buses were purchased through a grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Through the grant, Ocean View paid only \$25,000 per bus for a total of \$150,000. The remainder of the cost of the buses, as well as infrastructure needs, was covered by the grant which totaled \$859,056.

Each of the new buses seats 65 students and is equipped with seat belts. District bus drivers have said it’s like “driving a luxury car” because the ride is so smooth and quiet. Bus 41 has already been certified by the California Highway Patrol and has been transporting students to and from school and on field trips. The remaining new buses will soon be on the road following CHP certification. Students have been impressed with the bus – some refer to it as a “hybrid” bus. Along with the excitement of the new buses, the added benefit to the environment is forefront on everyone’s mind. “Everyone is concerned with global warming and climate change. Now Ocean View gets to be part of the solution,” said LeAnn Quick, District Director of Transportation.

It was Director Quick’s ingenuity and effort that brought the grant award to Ocean View. In light of a funding gap in California in which the state pays less than 50 percent of school transportation costs, and in an effort to address the District’s aging fleet, Director Quick is constantly searching for ways to maintain the fleet and continue to offer free transportation to the District’s student population. As part of those efforts, Director Quick applied for the “Lower-Emission School Bus Replacement and Retrofit Program,” a grant funded through AB923. In January, she was notified by SCAQMD that the District would receive funding to replace all six of its pre-1987 school buses, allowing them to be removed from service. The grant provides less polluting and safer school transportation for school children and will reduce the public exposure to toxic diesel particulate matter emissions. A requirement of the grant is that the older, heavy polluting buses be removed from service and crushed.

The grant also funds the retrofit of the District’s remaining diesel school buses with particulate (PM) traps.

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