



SOUTH BAY CITIES

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
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SBCCOG Receives AQMD's Clean Air Award for Advancement in Innovative Transportation Projects

LOS ANGELES—Dan Medina, Gardena Councilman and 1st Vice Chair of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), accepted the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) **Advancement in Innovative Transportation Projects Award** for the innovative Local Use Vehicle (LUV) project which has been in operation for the last 2 years in the South Bay.

The LUV project placed a fleet of 100 percent electric, zero-emission vehicles, which are compact, short-range and low-speed in households in the South Bay for their daily use for a 2 month period. Each vehicle was equipped with GPS so use of the vehicles could be tracked. It is the first project to test these vehicles available with the general public in an urban setting, and the only such project that applies GPS technology to track usage.

The project demonstrated the fact that the overwhelming number of trips in the South Bay, other than those that are work-related, are local – under 5 miles. The LUV project further showed households that participated that they could address these local trips in a range limited, zero-emission vehicle and still retain a longer range vehicle for longer trips. The South Bay has over 260,000 secondary vehicles that could be replaced by these clean short range vehicles.

One of the most significant findings of the LUV project is its dramatic impact on air quality. By replacing 60% of the secondary vehicles with LUVs or Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), the

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Our members are Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and the Harbor City/San Pedro communities of the City of Los Angeles, along with the County of Los Angeles District 2 and 4.

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South Bay could save 17 million gallons of gas per year, which, in carbon emission offsets, would be equivalent to planting over four million trees. Data collected on the project is publicly available on SBCCOG's website.

Gardena Councilmember and SBCCOG First Vice Chair Dan Medina in receiving the award stated, "It was truly a privilege and an honor for me to accept this award on behalf of the SBCCOG. Being recognized by the AQMD, which is itself a leader in working on innovation to clean our air, is incredibly gratifying and our organization is very excited about this recognition."

Inglewood Councilmember and SBCCOG Chair Ralph Franklin stated, "The SBCCOG is proud that this program not only benefits the South Bay communities, but serves as a model for other cities to follow. Being able to positively impact air quality while bolstering the local economy and easing congestion on our main roads through the encouragement of local trips is a significant achievement that we are very proud of."

AQMD hosted its 24th Annual Clean Air Awards on October 12 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles with Josh Rubenstein, chief meteorologist for CBS 2 and KCAL 9 TV emceeding the event. SBCCOG was one of several individuals, businesses, public agencies and others across six categories that received recognition for their significant contributions to cleaner air in the Southland. AQMD Governing Board Chairman William A. Burke, Ed.D expanded on the significance of the occasion, "We have the privilege each year to honor exceptional individuals and businesses whose environmental efforts shine bright. The winners are inspiring and show each of us that we can make a positive difference for our environment."



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