

# REFUEL: SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUEL COORDINATING COUNCIL

## NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 2015

File number 3200900

### 1. DISCUSSION ON TOOLKITS

- Michelle Heaton (Amerigas) noted that she liked the format of the toolkit components.
- Jack Hogan (Clean Energy) requested that a different natural gas vehicle be placed on the Natural Gas (NG) intro sheet because the taxi depicted is not available in California.
  - Estimated station costs for natural gas, which are listed, are a little lower than what he has experienced. He suggested raising the low-end and high-end estimate.
- Mike Evans (Shell) noted the benefit in discussing the emissions reductions that is occurring by moving a fleet over to propane or natural gas.
  - An emissions calculator available for all fuels would be useful.
  - It should be a standard component of the toolkits, placed upfront.
- Ms. Heaton shared a document that has nine steps in determining whether propane is the right choice for a fleet.
  - The group thought this was a good idea and suggested it being turned into a flow chart.
  - This can be morphed into general guidelines for whether or not a fleet should adopt a fuel type.
- Greg Newhouse (Miramar College) asked what other groups this should be marketed to.
  - Ready-mix, tow trucks, street sweepers, box trucks, and step vans are areas in which there is growth/potential for natural gas development.
  - Mr. Newhouse agrees that there should be a healthy tension in the documents between success stories (existing fleets with alternative fuels) and exploring areas for growth (fleets that could be using alternative fuels).
- Mr. Evans commented that it seems there is no compelling reason to choose one fuel over the other.
  - Kevin Wood (CSE) responded that it is feared that would result in playing one fuel against the other, which is not the goal of the toolkits.
  - Mr. Hogan shared that most fleets probably will not put in their own infrastructure; they will rely on public infrastructure. The most important priority for fleet managers is the availability of vehicles. Getting cleaner fuels may not necessarily be the fleet manager's initiative, but that of someone else.
- Mr. Wood asked if there are any other audiences to include for toolkit development. Additionally, when thinking about audiences beyond fleet, what information needs to be conveyed?
  - Mr. Newhouse brought up fleet vehicle owner-operators, such as airport taxis in which there are companies and drivers who own their own vehicles. He mentioned that the trucking industry is similar, and are unique because they are neither fleet nor consumers.
  - It was suggested that there could be an entirely different toolkit focused on these individuals.
- Mr. Hogan discussed the payback of a fleet making the transition to an alternative fuel vehicle.
  - Mr. Wood noted that not many fleets are taking advantage of used vehicles.
  - Mr. Hogan said that with the Prop 1B funding through the Air Pollution Control District, the requirement is to scrap the old vehicle; therefore, they cannot sell to the secondary market.
- Mr. Evans described some formatting suggestions and things he wants to see:
  - A list of all URLs to be present at the end of the document.

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- More links to case studies.
- Which fleets in the region have been converted, and which have not been converted.
- Mr. Evans suggested developing a list of regulations that may compel decision making when switching to an alternative fuel.
  - Mr. Hogan said that natural gas or propane vehicles do not need to use diesel particulate filters. He added that not using these filters will save fleets money.
- Mr. Newhouse suggested that an outline of the decision-making process would be beneficial for fleets/toolkit users.
  - Mr. Evans proposed creating a list of “considerations” to capture information that fleet managers are looking at as they evaluate the value of moving to alternative fuels.
    - The group concurred.
- Mr. Wood described future efforts to try to digitize these documents and host them online.
- There will be a fleet manager roundtable for Clean Cities sometime in July to discuss the toolkits.
- Complete drafts of all the toolkits will be completed by September. There will be time after that to continue making further changes as necessary.

### Attendees / Call-in Participates

- Mike Evans – Shell
- Michelle Heaton – Amerigas
- Jack Hogan – Clean Energy
- Steve Moore – Expo Propane
- Greg Newhouse – Miramar College
- Anna Lowe – SANDAG
- Michelle Martinez – SANDAG
- Jessica Jinn – CSE
- Kevin Wood – CSE