

PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rialto Unified School District 182 East Walnut Avenue Rialto, Ca. 92376 **Syeda Jafri, Director of Communications** Office (909) 820-7700, ext. 2123 <u>sjafri@rialto.k12.ca.us</u> March 8, 2016

Rialto Unified School District Breaks Ground for Higher Road to Cleaner Air

RIALTO – The Rialto Unified School District's Transportation Department will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on March 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m., at the future site of the new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Station, located at 261 S. Lilac Avenue in Rialto.

- This unmanned station will run 24 hours a day and will be open to the public.
- The District currently operates a total of 58 school buses, of which 28 are CNG fueled buses.
- The District is currently unable to meet its own CNG consumption, which can reach 160,000 gallons annually, and is expected to increase as diesel fueled buses are required to be replaced with CNG fueled buses by January 1, 2018.
- The estimated project cost is \$4.1 million.

Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila, RUSD Superintendent, said that any opportunity that the District has to introduce cleaner, healthier air for local students and staff is also a plus for citizens of Rialto.

"This is a long term commitment, which will be a cost saving investment for the District. Through CNG, our future generation will be breathing cleaner air," stated Dr. Avila. "Data has always indicated that a safe and healthy environment is a positive contributing factor towards student success. We look forward to the March 14, groundbreaking."

According to **Mohammad Z. Islam**, Associate Superintendent of Business Services at the RUSD, the station will generate additional revenue from the sales to the public and reduce the District's operating costs.

For more information on CNG, please contact Communication Services, at (909) 820-7700, ext. 2123.