



# Costa Mesa Sanitary District

....an Independent Special District

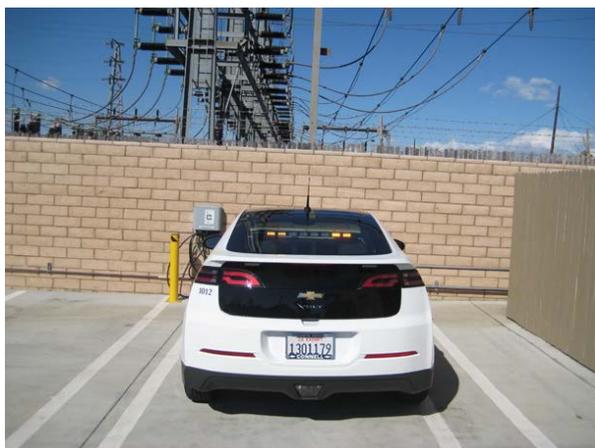
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2012  
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## DISTRICT IMPROVES VISIBILITY WITH NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE



(Costa Mesa, CA) – Most people in Costa Mesa don't know that the Costa Mesa Sanitary District is responsible for providing them sewer and trash collection services. That's because the red and blue trash trucks picking up residential trash five days a week don't belong to the District, they belong to CR&R Waste and Recycling Services through a contract with the District. For sewer maintenance, the District owns one heavy duty truck to clean sewer pipes, but it's not enough to clean approximately 500,000 feet of pipe a year, so the District hires a contractor to perform this service.



When a sewer pipe needs fixing and/or replacing, the District hires specialized contractors to complete the job. "We are a small but efficient organization", says the District's Board President Bob Ooten. "Most people don't know about us because we contract approximately eighty-percent of our services, so you don't see many District owned vehicles out in the street" said Ooten. However, that's changing after the District purchased a new electric vehicle for its code enforcement activities.

Now, cruising through the neighborhood streets in the District service area, which includes all of Costa Mesa and small parts of Newport Beach and the County of Orange, is a white Chevrolet Volt that has the District's logo on its doors and underneath the logo are bold black letters that read "Code Enforcement". The District code enforcement officer, Isirido Gallardo, is trying to



keep neighborhoods beautiful by reminding residents to store their trash containers out of public view. He is also looking for scavengers that are stealing recyclable materials and he reports to the City abandoned shopping carts and graffiti. “Now, when residents see me driving in their neighborhood, they come out of their homes to stop me to report on a code enforcement incident,” said Gallardo. “But they don’t realize that I work for the Costa Mesa Sanitary District and not the City”, he says. Before purchasing the Volt, District code enforcement personnel had to drive his/her own personal vehicle, but officials had concerns with safety and the reliability of personal vehicles.



The Volt, which cost \$43,000 and was purchased at Connell Chevrolet in Costa Mesa, is a dual source of energy vehicle that uses electricity and gasoline. On a fully charged battery the Volt can travel 35 miles. When the battery has been depleted, the Volt uses the gas-powered range extending generator to drive hundreds more miles. However, the District’s code enforcement officer is a part time position that typically travels 35 miles or less a day, which means the District will rarely fill up the vehicle on gasoline, resulting in thousands of dollars saved annually on fuel cost. The volt is

charged at the District’s Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Yard where the building’s rooftop solar photovoltaic panels power the charger. “Our mission is protecting the community’s health and the environment, so we wanted to demonstrate our leadership to reducing carbon monoxide and greenhouse gas from vehicle emissions”, said Ooten. “The District’s Volt can truly be considered a sustainable vehicle.”

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