



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Paul Rapp, Marketing & Communications Manager  
(209) 467-6665

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 24, 2011

## **RTD Environmental Management Team Begins Training in Virginia**

(Stockton, CA) – In February 2011, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD)'s Environmental Management Team completed its first training session as part of an 18-month process to develop and implement for RTD an Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS).

RTD is one of ten agencies in the nation selected by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in September 2010 to receive training and assistance through the Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA) at Virginia Tech in Roanoke, Virginia, to implement an ESMS. An ESMS is a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency. In January 2011, Virginia Tech ESMS instructors visited RTD to tour RTD's Metro facility, review the upcoming training, and conduct a baseline environmental review.

Organizations with an ESMS report being able to more effectively manage their environmental obligations. Additionally, organizations report an enhanced ability to analyze, control and reduce environmental impacts, and to operate with greater efficiency and control. Additional program benefits include cost savings over time, improved bond ratings, reduced insurance premiums, and better community relations. RTD's ultimate goal is ISO 14001 Certification by Spring 2012. ISO 14001 is an international standard for environmental management systems.



RTD's Environmental Team members are (left to right): Planning Manager Nathaniel Atherstone (Administrative Leader), Maintenance Supervisor Brad Menil, General Manager/CEO Donna DeMartino, Facilities Superintendent Wendell Krell, and Operations Superintendent Mark Fairbanks (Team Leader). The cost of this training is paid for by the FTA; RTD only has to pay its travel expenses, which RTD pays for through American Express cash back rewards.

**(MORE)**

RTD is committed to the betterment of the community we serve, and the improvement of the unique environment around us. We are recognized by our community partners and transit industry peers for taking a proactive lead in the adoption of new technologies that reduce emissions while reducing costs, such as the use of clean, quiet, and efficient diesel-electric hybrid buses. RTD has received many environmental awards: three from TOPPS (Targeted Opportunities to Prevent Pollution in San Joaquin County), including their 'P3-Premier Pollution Preventer' Award. In 2005, the San Joaquin Council of Governments recognized RTD with one of its Regional Excellence Awards for its first two hybrid buses.

To learn more about RTD's environmental initiatives, visit [www.sanjoaquinRTD.com/green](http://www.sanjoaquinRTD.com/green).

# # #