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California Energy Commission Grant Award for Electric Buses

(Stockton, CA) – The San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD), in partnership with Proterra Inc, was awarded a California Energy Commission (CEC) grant in the amount of $2.56 million towards an electric bus demonstration project valued at over $4 million. This demonstration project will introduce RTD’s first fully electric buses into service. RTD will be the second transit agency in California and the fourth in the nation to operate these new electric buses. This project supports the CEC Electric Drive Strategic Plan administrated by CALSTART and is funded through Assembly Bill 118. This effort also supports RTD’s Strategic Initiatives by reducing energy consumption, waste, and pollution, while fostering vendor innovation and new technologies.

The grant award includes two new EcoRide™ BE35 battery-electric buses for RTD’s operating fleet. Proterra is producing the automated fast-charging station for RTD’s Downtown Transit Center as a matching commitment to the CEC grant. RTD’s only responsibilities are the installation costs for the charging station and the administration of the CEC grant. RTD anticipates charge station installation and bus delivery by the spring of 2013.

RTD’s EcoRide™ BE35 battery-electric buses will be able to recharge in less than 10 minutes, ready to serve the community with clean electric powered bus service. The 35-foot long buses are made of lightweight composite materials and are powered with state of the art battery technology. As a result, the buses have zero emissions, run virtually silent, and are 600 percent more fuel efficient than diesel buses.

With its headquarters and manufacturing in Greenville, SC, Proterra is a leading designer and manufacturer of heavy-duty electric drive systems, energy storage systems, transit buses and fast-charging stations. In 2010, Proterra broke through California’s fleet regulatory requirements with a Federal Transit Authority demonstration project with Foothill Transit, in Pomona, CA. Foothill Transit began using three of Proterra’s EcoRide™ BE35 battery-electric buses (dubbed the Ecoliner) in September 2010. Foothill Transit is operating select services with their Proterra fleet. Other cities anticipated to roll-out Proterra buses in the next six months include San Antonio, TX, and Tallahassee, FL.

“We are very impressed with Proterra’s innovations and we are proud to be a part of efforts to provide environmentally-friendly and sustainable transportation delivery options,” said RTD General Manager/CEO Donna DeMartino. “This project is consistent with RTD’s core values and strategic initiatives and is another positive example of how we can leverage new technology to protect our environment and save costs at the same time. We are excited to begin operating these buses next year.”
“Proterra congratulates the San Joaquin Regional Transit District on its forward-thinking approach to environmentally-friendly mass transit solutions,” said David Bennett, CEO, Proterra Inc. “We are pleased to work with them to become an important part of addressing the severe air pollution problems in the Central Valley while providing RTD operating cost savings in the process.”

For more information on Proterra’s services go to: www.proterra.com

To learn more about RTD, visit us online at www.sanjoaquinRTD.com and follow San Joaquin RTD on Facebook and Twitter.

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