



ericGARCETTI

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

District 13 ? 200 N. Spring St. Room 470 ? Los Angeles ? CA 90012



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Contact: **Sahar Moridani,**
Mayor's Office
213/978-0741

Josh Kamensky
Councilmember Garcetti's Office
213/473-7013

MAYOR HAHN, COUNCILMEMBER GARCETTI PROPOSE FREE METERED PARKING FOR HYBRID VEHICLES

Los Angeles – Mayor Jim Hahn and City Councilmember Eric Garcetti today announced a proposal to make parking at city meters free for hybrid vehicles.

“We want people to have just one more incentive – besides helping to reduce air pollution – to drive a hybrid vehicle,” Mayor Hahn declared at a press conference along a busy stretch of Hollywood Boulevard.

“This pilot program would mean the end of fishing for quarters beneath the seats of your car, the end of digging in the bottom of your bag, and the end of paying a quarter to park for seven minutes...but only if you drive a hybrid,” Mayor Hahn added, speaking against a backdrop of hybrid vehicles parked at city parking meters.

“This motion says to L.A. drivers: Don't worry locally, be happy globally,” said Councilmember Garcetti. “At the same that you can be happy you're polluting ninety percent less than other drivers, you don't have to worry about whether you just put your last quarter in a tip jar when you're parking on city streets.”

The City of Los Angeles currently provides free parking at city meters for electric and natural gas cars and trucks designated as “Clean Air Vehicles” by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Based on the success of this initiative, and in an effort to promote cleaner air, Mayor Hahn developed a plan to extend this program to owners of hybrid vehicles for a six-month trial period. Councilmember Garcetti will introduce the motion in the City Council that will direct LADOT to begin implementation of the program.

Initially, hybrid owners would not need to do anything different to take advantage of the policy. Parking enforcement officers would be trained to recognize hybrid vehicles and would simply not cite owners of such vehicles for not paying at parking meters. However, vehicle owners would still be required to comply with posted time limits. In addition, if the State of California and DMV decide to

include hybrids as “Clean Air Vehicles,” then hybrid owners would need to receive a sticker from the DMV to qualify for free parking, just as electric and natural gas vehicle owners currently do.

Hybrids, which use a combination of gasoline and electric power, provide increased fuel economy on a miles-per-gallon basis and, subsequently, reduce air pollution. California has twice as many hybrids as any other state. Over 4,700 hybrid vehicles were registered in Los Angeles in 2003, more than any other city. The City of Los Angeles is currently converting its fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles and also maintains a small fleet of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

The free hybrid parking pilot program will last for six months. At the end of that period, LADOT will analyze the program and make a determination of whether or not to continue the program.

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