



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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**Juan Bustamante  
(213) 978-0741**

### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA DRIVES GREEN JOB CREATION BY OPENING DOORS TO NEW CLEAN TRUCK FACTORY**

*Electric truck factory - funded by City's investment in clean technology - adds green jobs while helping Port clean air and reduce emissions*

HARBOR CITY - Creating new green jobs in Los Angeles and reducing dirty diesel emissions from Port trucks, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today opened the doors to a new clean truck factory.

"Los Angeles is laying the foundation of a sustainable economy by investing in clean technology and green jobs," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "Bringing Balqon to L.A. represents a giant leap in our effort to develop the clean technology industry of tomorrow."

Today's factory opening represents Los Angeles' commitment to growing green and, through targeted policy and investment, provides a model for how to foster the development of a green economy.

The first model of the world's most powerful, all-electric truck rolled off the production line at Balqon, the country's only heavy-duty, all-electric truck assembly facility, initially supporting nearly 50 new green manufacturing jobs with the potential for hundreds more in the coming years.

"The support and collaboration we received from the Port and City of Los Angeles enabled us to develop, test and now move into production with a first-of-its-kind, heavy-duty electric truck in less than two years' time," said Balqon Corp. President and CEO, Balwinder Samra. "This is the kind of smart approach that is putting Los Angeles and its port at the forefront of 'clean tech' efforts that will benefit regional air and regional business."

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As Mayors around the country fight for their share of federal stimulus funds, Mayor Villaraigosa is showing Los Angeles' commitment to leading the way on the green economy by investing in green jobs and attracting new clean technology manufacturing to Los Angeles.

Balqon, the country's first heavy-duty, all-electric truck manufacturer, received initial seed money for development of its electric truck through the City's clean technology investment fund - Technology Advancement Program (TAP). The program, part of the Mayor's Clean Air Action Plan, will help to develop new clean technology to reduce the effect of harmful emissions from the port. The electric truck is the first TAP-approved project.

The prototype model was tested at cargo terminals at the Port of Los Angeles in 2008, after which the Harbor Commission approved purchase of 25 production-ready, electric trucks. The City's initial investment, testing, purchase commitment and aid in finding a facility directly resulted in the creation of new technology and job growth in Los Angeles. As a partial consideration for the Port providing the first sizeable production order with Balqon, the company will provide a royalty payment of \$1,000 to the Port for each vehicle it sells or leases worldwide.

An initiative of the Port's Clean Air Action Plan, the development and demonstration of the Balqon electric truck was co-funded by the Port and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) at a total cost of \$527,000. Designed specifically for short-haul or "drayage" operations, this heavy-duty truck can pull a 60,000-pound cargo container at a top speed of 40 mph, and has a range between 30 to 60 miles per battery charge. The battery charger can charge up to four electric trucks simultaneously in four hours and can also provide up to 60 percent of the charge in one hour to meet peak demands during daily operations.

These trucks will be deployed at a "green terminal" as a zero emissions alternative to fossil fuel-powered yard tractors, or "hostlers." Currently, fleets of thousands of hostlers -- which are mostly diesel vehicles and a small number of Liquefied Natural Gas test units -- move thousands of containers a day between the Port's docks and terminal backland. They could eventually be replaced by electric vehicles.

As part of the Port's purchase, five of the trucks will eventually be used as on-road vehicles to transfer containers to local warehouses and rail yards. In total, the Port is investing more than \$5.6 million to demonstrate the viability of electric drayage trucks.

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## **About the Clean Air Action Plan**

In order to address health and environmental issues, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach adopted the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) in November 2006 - under the leadership of Mayor Villaraigosa – a comprehensive plan to address and curb emissions from port-related sources - ships, trains, trucks, terminal equipment and harbor craft. The CAAP:

- Will cut port related emissions by 45 percent or more over a five-year period, including: 47 percent reduction in diesel particulate matter; 45 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides; 52 percent reduction in sulfur oxides.
- Relies on pollution-based impact fees, ensuring the worst polluters pay their part to improve air quality.
- Uses incentives to encourage ships entering and exiting the harbor to reduce speed limits and use low-sulfur, clean-burning fuels to minimize diesel emissions in the area.
- Calls for cargo ships to shut down dirty diesel-powered auxiliary engines while docked and instead use shore-side electricity by 2016.
- Commits to eliminating dirty trucks by helping finance a generation of clean big-rigs.

The CAAP is the first of its kind in the world, partnering the two largest ports in the United States with the support of local, state and federal agencies that regulate air-quality standards (the South Coast Air Quality Management District; the California Air Resources Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency). Drafted with extensive input from environmental, community, industry stakeholders, the CAAP also commits the Ports to invest in hundreds of millions of dollars in air-quality improvement programs.

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