

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Felix I. Hernandez

cell: (213) 792-1948

[fhernandez@lacclink.com](mailto:fhernandez@lacclink.com)



**Los Angeles Convention Center**

**Governor Schwarzenegger and Mayor Antonio Villagraigosa  
Ignite LA Auto Show Engines**

**December 1, 2009 (LOS ANGELES, CA)** – California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa kicked off the start of the highly anticipated LA Auto Show highlighting the importance of driving alternative fuel cars by holding individual press conferences at the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) on December 1. Both conferences were held at LACC's Gilbert Lindsay Plaza.

Joining Governor Schwarzenegger at the podium was an assemblage of environmental leaders, Linda Adams, Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and Mary Nichols, Chairwoman of the California Air Resources Board among other major automobile executives. Behind the group was a backdrop of neatly parked, top-of-the-line alternative fuel efficient brand cars that each automobile executive represented.

The governor stated that his administration's goal is to reduce greenhouse gases by 25 percent by the year 2020. To make this goal a reality "is by also working with the car manufacturers and make those cars ...more energy efficient and also reduce the greenhouse gases," Governor Schwarzenegger continued. "I want to congratulate car manufacturers for the great work that they have done in consistently improving on the technology because, like I say, it's technology in the end that will save us all," added Schwarzenegger.

Mayor Villaraigosa announced his Southern California Regional Plug-In Electrical Collaboration plan at his press conference. This proposal will expand Southern California's network of charging stations, offer incentives to environmental friendly vehicle drivers, and pave the way for a rush of new electric cars in 2010-11. He also took the wheel in a demonstration ride, with Councilwoman Jan Perry by his side, in an all electric Mini E, a City vehicle used by Perry.

"As we continue to see our climate change, and the impact it has on our daily lives, it's critical that the Los Angeles region grasp this opportunity, shift the paradigm, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our reliance on imported oil and create new jobs and new economic development," Villaraigosa said.

The Mayor was accompanied by Linda Adams, Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, and Councilwoman Jan Perry, Chairwoman of the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee and a board member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

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“As a venue that is progressive and an active participant in environmental awareness, the Los Angeles Convention Center is honored to host leaders who are fighting for global environmental awareness,” states Pouria Abbassi, P.E., Los Angeles Convention Center General Manager & CEO.

**About the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC)**

The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) is one of the most technologically advanced convention and exhibition centers in the world. LACC attracts over 2.5 million annual visitors and is renowned internationally as a prime site for conventions, trade shows and exhibitions. With its towering emerald architectural design, the LACC is a well recognized Los Angeles landmark. An integral economic component to the Southern California area, total sales from client secondary spending tops \$1.1 billion annually, generating and sustaining over 12,000 local jobs. LACC is a model environmental-friendly facility. The Los Angeles Convention Center is registered with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as a member of the Los Angeles and National Chapter and holds the prestigious USGBC LEED certification for existing buildings. LACC is also a proud recipient of prestigious environmental and industry awards including several Planner’s Choice Awards presented by Meeting News magazine, multiple Prime Site Awards from the Facilities and Destinations magazine, recognition for model emergency care programs, and was invited to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency’s National earth conscious WasteWise Program. For more information about the Los Angeles Convention Center, please call (213) 741-1151, ext. 5319 or visit [www.lacclink.com](http://www.lacclink.com).

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger giving his LA Auto Show kick off speech at Los Angeles Convention Center's (LACC) Gilbert Lindsay Plaza with LACC's South Hall lobby in the backdrop.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) speaking about his administration's California Regional Plug In Electrical Collaboration plan with council members and alternative fuel automobile executives by his side and LACC's South Hall behind them.