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NEWS RELEASE

DATE: October 9, 2003
RELEASE DATE: Immediate Release
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DONATED BUS TO HELP K-12 STUDENTS IN MEXICO TO STUDY SCIENCE & ECOLOGY

SANTA MONICA, CA — During the first week of October, a Big Blue Bus headed south well beyond the borders of the normal 51 square mile service area for a good cause. The Big Blue Bus donated a retired bus to a non-profit science center in Mexico. The retired bus will allow the **Centro de Ciencia de Sinaloa** to transport K-12 students on field trips to the Gulf of California coast to learn first hand about science and ecology.

“Donating this retired bus to the Sinaloa Science Center will help young people there learn about science and the environment,” said Stephanie Negriff, Director of Transportation Services for the City of Santa Monica.

“It supports our commitment to support youth, education and transportation.”

The bus to be donated was purchased in 1985. Though after 12 years of active service, putting on 6,000 miles a month, 72,000 miles a year, the bus was retired when the cost of maintenance was deemed no longer cost effective.

For the past four years, the bus was dubbed “an education bus” and used to shuttle elementary school students from the Santa Monica/ Malibu school districts to the Big Blue Bus yard to participate in the Big Blue Bus Student Art Program. This program teaches children about everything from how to read a bus map to the environmental benefits of public transportation.

Once it became an education bus, audio, video and a PA system were installed which makes it well suited for use for school groups in Mexico. The estimated value of the donated bus is \$4,000. On Thursday, the bus will be delivered to representatives from the Sinaloa Science Center at the San Ysidro border crossing.

The City of Santa Monica’s police and fire departments have also donated retired equipment and vehicles to police and fire departments in Mexico.

The relationship between the Big Blue Bus and the **Centro de Ciencia de Sinaloa** was sparked through the Pacific Coast Roundtable on

Sustainability, an international group of cities committed to sound environmental practices.

Big Blue Bus plans to replace its entire diesel fleet of close to 200 buses with buses powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG). LNG is 30 percent cheaper per gallon than diesel, and natural gas vehicles can lower carbon monoxide emissions by 70 percent. In 2002, Big Blue Bus acquired 37 LNG buses. It also runs several electric buses – The Tide Shuttle service – which produce zero emissions.

The staff at the Big Blue Bus values community service and work together to support local causes and, as this donation demonstrates, in Mexico. Big Blue Bus employees are also active in raising money for many local charities including participating in **AIDS Walk Los Angeles** and sponsoring a city-wide food drive to benefit the **Westside Food Bank**. Last year, their efforts raised 6,000 pounds of donated food.

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