



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Gasoline Prices Peak in Pre-summer Period**

After eleven consecutive weeks of price increases, California motorists were paying an average of \$3.31 per gallon for regular grade gasoline as recent as last week. This trend transitions to an additional 41 cents per gallon over last year's prices.

According to the U.S. Energy Department, the dramatic price surge over the past two months can be attributed to higher crude oil prices, unplanned refinery outages, higher demand for gasoline, and low levels of gas imports from Europe. Conditions are forecasted to ease, showing signs of relief by summer, but only after prices peak in May.

The Department predicts California will once again lead the nation in summer gas prices. During summer months, the average price for regular gasoline throughout the nation is projected to reach an average of \$2.81 per gallon compared with \$2.84 per gallon last summer. California gas prices typically average approximately 45 cents higher than national trends.

With mounting gas prices, many regular commuters have been drawn out of their cars and into seats aboard local public transportation. The latest APTA-sponsored statistics demonstrated using public transportation can save a household on average, \$6,000 a year. Additionally, nation-wide ridership aboard public transportation services higher

than it's been in 50 years contributing to the understanding that public transportation is continually striving to be a convenient and affordable alternative mode of transportation.

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