



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 25, 2008

What We Can Do About Gang Violence

Over the last several days, I have received a handful of emails and comments from folks who believe that the current rash of gang violence is really a “race war.” In one email, a person sent me a number of news clippings detailing hostilities between Latino and African-American gangs as evidence that this is all about race, as opposed to criminals committing criminal acts. Although the topic of race is always very sensitive, I believe that we must be able to speak rationally, intelligently and carefully about such complex issues; to quote Confucius, “The beginning of Wisdom is to call things by their right names.”

I responded to the email stating that the mere fact that each of the articles that were cited focused on gang violence, trends in gang violence, demographic shifts that can contribute to gang violence, etc., that the sender had actually proved my point – that the issue here is not race; it’s gang violence. The racial/ethnic identity of the gang members gives the story racial overtones, to be sure. And tension is certainly not uncommon when one group supplants another in a given area or neighborhood – this has been witnessed time and again over hundreds of years throughout the history of cities and towns.

But this tension, in 2008 and here in Monrovia, does not extend so far as to cause a spontaneous combustion of hatred and bigotry. These gang members are not emblematic of their respective races and ethnicities. We are not witnessing, for example, Asian mechanics randomly attacking white carpenters, or black CPAs arbitrarily brawling with Latino attorneys, or Native American teachers indiscriminately fighting with Indian truck drivers. What we are very likely seeing is a Latino street gang and an African-American street gang locked in an increasingly violent cycle of retaliation. Yet this shouldn’t give us some sense of security or allow us to tolerate these actions because, as we have seen, the violence can spill over. There is an old saying that “a bullet hasn’t got a name on it.”

So why are some folks quick to accept this concept of a “race war”? Probably because it is easier to understand in very general terms; or at least, it’s a simple explanation; or it may fit-in well with their own preconceived notions about people from other groups; or it sells newspapers. Whatever the reason, the net result is the same – it scares people.

Over the last two weeks, City Council members and City staff from all departments spent quite a lot of time walking door-to-door in our southeast neighborhoods talking with folks about recent gang activity. Most everyone said they were scared – scared of people they didn’t know, scared of cars driving down the street too fast or too slow, scared to let their kids go outside and play. In the vast majority of interviews, however, residents were not scared of their neighbors (unless the neighbor was a known troublemaker), regardless their color. These are the same neighborhoods that we spent the entire summer of 2007 working on through the MAP (Monrovia Area Partnership) Program. A big part of MAP is connecting folks with City Hall and with each other – removing barriers for neighbors in the hopes that they can self-police and establish a real expectation that crime and blight will not be tolerated.

For example, in one interview, an older man (who initially was quite angry) said, “This kind of thing [gang violence] would never happen in north Monrovia!” But then he caught himself and answered his own complaint – “I bet those folks would be calling and complaining 24/7 about a problem-house, though.” To be sure, one of the biggest impediments in working gang cases is getting cooperation from witnesses and neighbors who are afraid to speak or won’t get involved.

So what has the City done and what is the City doing in response to this issue?

First and foremost is additional police patrol – helping people feel safe on their streets. Practically every resident noted the heightened profile of our police officers in the neighborhood, and they were appreciative. But the real and long-term answer is not and cannot be only a policing solution. Why? Two main reasons: First, this current cycle of violence is not the same as the random sorts of gang activity that we typically see in the summer months (and which MAP did well to address; you may have noticed that the summer of 2007 was unmistakably quiet in these neighborhoods). What is happening now appears to be retaliation; one hits the other and other hits back in a vicious and dangerous cycle. We could double the size of the police force and we still could not guarantee that the issue would be resolved. Secondly, a “police-only” solution is like a “military-only” solution in a war – it doesn’t work unless you are willing to commit totally and obliterate entire areas. Obviously, Monrovia is not Bagdad, and even Bagdad is not Dresden or Nagasaki circa 1944-45. Addressing this issue with a police-only solution is like agreeing to live with the disease rather than finding a cure.

The best answer focuses on multiple and related objectives – public safety, no doubt; but also, crime prevention, blight abatement, economic development and job development, collaboration with education and the spiritual community, and constant, meaningful communication. These are the touchstones of the MAP program and the Police Department’s longstanding Community Policing program, as well as the Redevelopment Agency’s projects, and the YES (Youth Employment Service) Program. The City Council has dedicated considerable resources to resolving these issues and, as the Mayor stated in his State of the City Address, Monrovia will dedicate whatever is necessary to successfully combat the influence of gangs and gang violence.

The frustrating part of all of this, however, is that despite the resources you put into prevention and intervention, despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on extra patrol and new programs, despite the inroads you make with neighbors, you are always just one flashpoint away from sliding back downhill. Thus, your primary and guiding hope is that you’ve been effective enough and made enough of an impact with folks so that when you start over – and we will – that you don’t have to start from zero.

Now is not the time for kudos and backslapping, but I can report to you that I am proud of the job our people are doing in the neighborhoods. This isn’t a guarantee, warranty or prediction that we are done or close to done; simply a recognition of the resilience and commitment of our police officers, code enforcement officers, recreation leaders, librarians, and Public Works crews. To this end, I invite you all to the MAP Area II kick off on Saturday February 2, at Julian Fisher Park, beginning at 11 a.m. This event was scheduled for January 26, but was held off because of the weather. Please scroll down to the Community Development section of this report for more details.

Productive Meeting with North Primrose Residents

Following up on a request from residents on North Primrose Avenue at the last City Council meeting, Mayor Hammond, Police Captain Jim Hunt, City Engineer Doug Benash and I attended a meeting on Tuesday night with Primrose residents to talk about traffic issues on that street. Essentially, local residents along and above Primrose Avenue speed up and down the street and are a menace to the neighborhood’s peace and quiet. And while the traffic volume on Primrose is significantly less than

other comparable streets like Magnolia or Mayflower (neither of which have stop signs between Foothill and Hillcrest), speeds do pick up in both directions.

It was a positive and productive meeting, as the residents had already done some research and had come to understand that stop signs are not appropriate for controlling speed, and speed humps are generally ineffective for local residential traffic (as opposed to cut-through commuter traffic). Instead, we focused on enforcement strategies and signage as the better alternatives. We also agreed to again study traffic volumes to see if there were any notable changes in driving patterns since the last survey in 2006, as well as to better assist the Police Department's traffic officers in patrolling the area.

One last note on this matter: It was reported at the end of the week that someone had stolen the bright yellow signs that the Primrose residents had set out which directed drivers to slow down. This is unfortunate and, although probably a prank by someone who got a citation for speeding (in light of the enhanced enforcement), an issue to be taken seriously (the Police Department took a theft report). As I informed the reporter who originally asked me about the signs when they were first set out two weeks ago, I thought they were a good and proactive idea. They reflected residents coming together with solutions and reminded me of the kinds of grassroots resourcefulness that folks in my old neighborhood growing up demonstrated when all of the neighborhood kids would play in the street. I know one Primrose resident resented my praise as patronizing, but in this era of cynicism, little surprises me anymore. The new street signs will be going up over the next 7-10 days.

Snow in Monrovia?!?

According to City Historian and City Treasurer Steve Baker, it hasn't snowed in Monrovia since the late forties/early fifties. Yet on Thursday morning, a number of Monrovia streets were dusted with snow-like hail, or "snail" – hey, I'll take what I can get. We received a number of great photos from residents and will post them on our website for folks to use as next year's Christmas cards.

Old Town Infrastructure Program Nears Final Phase

With the completion of the Colorado Commons project only weeks away, Public Works staff will begin relocating some of the five-globe light standards from different spots along Myrtle Avenue to locations around the Commons. You may recall the discussion last year about lighting on Myrtle and the consensus to bring down the lighting on the street. Basically, instead of purchasing additional five-globes to be used at intersections and mid-block crosswalks on West Olive, Colorado, Lemon, Lime and Palm Avenues, we will take some from Myrtle and replace them with single-globes. Thus, the pattern will be: five-globes at the corners and crosswalks, with single-globes in between. Also, it is worth noting that, very soon, Colorado and Lemon will be reoriented to two-way traffic. Public Works will sign the change well in advance.

One additional note is that the web-cam for the Library construction will be installed next week, weather permitting. It was on track to be done this past week, but the rain halted everything. Once the camera is installed, the "windows" in the construction fencing around the park will be put in place.

Sawpit Trail Issue to be Heard in Court

Just in case you were wondering about this issue...the matter is scheduled to begin court proceedings next week. Hopefully, the issue will be adjudicated quickly and in favor of the community's right to use the Sawpit Trail just as it had for generations. In the meantime, I have been made aware that tempers have again been flaring around this subject (between the homeowner adjacent to the Trail and folks walking their dogs along the Sawpit Wash). Despite some of the alleged activities to try and get a rise out of hikers/walkers and their dogs, I strongly encourage folks to be just a little more patient for just a little longer, as we are hopefully nearing the end of this long and drawn out episode.

Articles Attached

- **Lawmakers Push Light-Rail Project.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Historic Preservation Commission Update. The Historic Preservation Commission had a light agenda at its meeting on January 23. The Commission took the following actions:

- Granted a five-year extension on a Mills Act condition to replace the faux-brick steps at the front of the house at 252 Aspen Drive.
- Provided feedback on a preliminary review of a proposed mural on the side of the building at 116 West Palm Avenue.
- Discussed a conceptual façade remodel of the building at 419 South Myrtle Avenue (Tax Doctor building).

MAP Kickoff - Rain Delayed. Due to inclement weather, we have reluctantly postponed the Monrovia Area Partnership Kickoff from January 26 to Saturday, February 2. We are looking forward to a successful kickoff event and we did not want rain discouraging attendance.

The City of Monrovia will be introducing the Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) to an expanded area of our community on Saturday, February 2, which will be marked with a Community Kickoff Party to be held from 11 a.m. 2.p.m. at Julian Fisher Park at 915 S. California Ave, (at the corner of California & Almond Avenues) in Monrovia. There will be booths inside the park to provide information and offer local services. There will be a Kids' Zone with carnival style games for the children and prize raffles for the adults. City leaders will be in attendance to speak about MAP and the community. MAP is a continuing program that embraces a philosophy involving Monrovia residents, and public-private resources working toward overall community revitalization.

Development Review Committee January 23 Recap.

- 137 N. Fifth Avenue – Approved a minor exception to encroach into a minimum side yard setback and allow a one-car garage to remain in lieu of providing a two-car garage.
- 417 Oakcliff Drive – Approved a minor exception to encroach into a minimum side yard setback with an addition to a single family residence.
- 328 W. Huntington Drive – Approved a Western Union sign on the Ranch Market.
- 101 E. Huntington Drive – Approved a request to consider the expansion of use for the existing Montecito Fine Arts School.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 72 emergency calls from 0800 hours, January 16 to 0800 hours January 23. Significant incidents include:

Water Line Break. At 930 a.m. on January 21, T-101 responded to a reported water line break in the 800 block of Royal Oaks. T-101 found that a branch line broke to the 801 building; a backhoe cut the line while trenching. Monrovia Public Works was notified and shut down the main line. Water to the

801, 800 and 750 building were affected. The fire protection systems were affected for a short time. Fire Watch was posted to the affected building by the building maintenance.

Structure Fire. Early Wednesday morning, personnel responded to a reported house fire. Upon arrival, they found a two story residence with fire showing from the street. The fire was caused by an unattended BBQ that ignited the combustible fuel and extended into the home.

Snow in Monrovia??? Early Thursday morning, fire personnel from Monrovia and Arcadia responded to multiple accidents on the 210 Freeway between Huntington Drive and Mountain Avenue. This came after a large storm cell passed through the city dropping large amounts of hail. Vehicles were tipped over and some had driven off the side of the freeway from the poor road conditions. All of the victims with injuries were treated and transported to local hospitals.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The popularity of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms has been growing in recent years. It cannot be assumed that everyone is familiar with the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home. Carbon monoxide is often called the silent killer because it is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas which is created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Facts & figures:

- The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.
- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 61,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of seven such calls per hour. The number of incidents increased 18 percent from 51,700 incidents reported in 2003. This increase is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.
- In 2005, January and December were the peak months for non-fire carbon monoxide incidents in which CO was found. The peak time of day is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:59 p.m.
- Overall, 75% of non-fire CO incidents are reported between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:59 p.m. in 2005.
- Almost 9 out of every 10 (89%) reported non-fire CO incidents took place in the home in 2005. In contrast, homes accounted for 75% of the structure fires reported that year.
- In 2003, there were an estimated 60,600 unintentional CO detector activations, in which carbon monoxide was not detected; this includes CO detector malfunctions and false alarms.
- In 2003, 46% of all CO-related non-fire calls reported to fire departments were carbon monoxide incidents, in which carbon monoxide was found. Fifty-four percent of all CO-related non-fire calls reported to fire departments were false alarms, or no CO was found.

NFPA Safety Tips:

Inside the home:

- Install CO alarms (listed by an independent testing laboratory) inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area. If bedrooms are spaced apart, each area will need a CO alarm.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds. Post that number by your telephone(s). Make sure everyone in the household

knows the difference between the fire emergency and CO emergency numbers (if there is a difference).

- Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood and coal stoves, space or portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- When purchasing new heating and cooking equipment, select products tested and labeled by an independent testing laboratory.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- When buying an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house.

Outside the home

- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle, generator, or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- Only use barbecue grills – which can produce CO – outside. Never use them in the home, garage or near building openings.
- When camping, remember to use battery-powered lights in tents, trailers, and motor homes.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location call for help. Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel say it is ok.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries or other trouble indicators.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Department is evaluating locations within the city as Point-Of-Dispensing (POD) sites that will be used to distribute mass preventive medication. This is not a treatment center, only a location where LA County Health Department could dispense preventive medications in the event of a large flu or other airborne threat. The County of Los Angeles is planning more than 70 of these locations throughout the region.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week, the Fire Department participated in a program called “Leadership Boot Camp” from a management company called Academy Leadership. The two-day intensive learning was mandatory for all Company and Chief Officers with the intent to further develop the skill sets of supervisors, managers and leaders. Topics discussed included leadership assessments of each of the 12 participants, communication as a leader, motivating people, conflict management and leader as a coach. The training included preparatory work of reading the book “The Leaders Compass” and completing the Energize2Lead profile and was filled with in-class assignments and homework. This program offered a no nonsense approach to leadership training and presented exceptional material that aided the learning environment and built the skills of each participant.

Our thanks go out to Dr. Perry Martini, a Naval Academy graduate, a commander of a U.S. Naval Squadron, a special assistant and advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Operation Just Cause and Desert Storm and a professor at Villanova University who did an exceptional job of teaching the members of the department the meaning of leadership!

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 544 calls for service resulting in 126 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Burglary / Possession of Burglary Tools. On January 17 at 8:13 p.m., officers were extra patrolling a business in the 400 block of West Huntington where they had arrested a burglary suspect the previous Saturday. They heard noises inside the building and made several announcements. A suspect jumped out onto the Alta Vista side of the building from the second floor area, and he was detained. He was arrested for the above listed charges.

Domestic Violence. On January 17 at 8:37 p.m., an officer responded to the 300 block of South Madison regarding the report of a husband hitting his wife. The couple had an argument and the husband pulled the wife's hair. He was arrested for misdemeanor spousal battery.

Animal Control Incident. On January 18 at 9:30 a.m., animal control officers were looking for a vicious female dog and her puppies in the 500 block of Almond. The officers had been successful in trapping all but one puppy, and the adult female remained loose. The officers found the dogs. The adult female dog was tranquilized, and the officers were able to catch the puppy.

Commercial Robbery. On January 18 at 11:39 a.m., a male suspect went into the jewelry display counter inside a business in the 300 block of West Huntington. The suspect sprayed the owner with pepper spray. The suspect used a small sledge hammer to break the glass countertop. The suspect grabbed an undetermined amount of jewelry from the display case and lacerated his arm on the glass in the process. The suspect fled the store and was last seen running eastbound in 200 block of West Huntington. The investigation is continuing.

Domestic Violence / Corporal Injury to a Child. On January 19 at 11:55 a.m., officers were called to the 300 block of West Palm regarding a domestic violence in progress. The officer's investigation revealed a 20-year-old male was having a long-term relationship with a 17-year-old girl. During an argument, the adult male suspect battered the juvenile female. The officers concluded the suspect did cause corporal injury to a child. The suspect, who had left the location prior to the officer's arrival, was located in the area and arrested.

Willful Harm or Injury to a Child. On January 19 at 1:53 p.m., a 17-year-old male driving out of a business parking lot in the 1600 block of South Mountain was nearly hit by a vehicle being driven into the lot by an adult male. The juvenile honked at the adult over the incident and drove away. The adult followed the juvenile, and at a stop light, exited his vehicle and began punching the juvenile through the open window. After being punched several times by the adult, the juvenile was able to exit his vehicle and fight back. The juvenile overcame the adult and placed him in a headlock until the adult promised to stop fighting. They both got back into their vehicles. The juvenile drove back to the business to tell his parent about the incident and saw the adult suspect at the business again. The victim called police. The suspect was arrested without incident.

Petty Theft / Possession of a Controlled Substance. On January 20 at 11:59 a.m., officers responded to a business in the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding a juvenile arrested by store security for shoplifting. During a search of the suspect's vehicle after the arrest, the officer found heroin and needles. The juvenile was taken to the hospital for medical clearance. The hospital cleared him, and he was taken back to the Police Department for booking and ultimately released to a parent.

Robbery / Burglary / Ex-Felon in Possession of a Firearm. On January 20 at 12:50 p.m., a male suspect was arrested by security at a business in the 100 block of West Foothill for shoplifting. The suspect was detained and taken to the security office for processing. When security told the suspect they were going to search him, the suspect pulled out a gun and pointed it at the security guards. The suspect fled the office. Police received the call and officers arrived on scene before the suspect was able to exit the store. As the suspect ran out of the store, he was pursued by officers and taken into

custody. The suspect is an ex-felon and was found to be in possession of a small caliber handgun that was concealed on his person.

Armed Robbery. On January 22 at 5:08 p.m., officers responded to the 400 block of Genoa on a call of three male suspects trying to pull a male driver out of a vehicle. The reporting party said one of the suspects was striking the driver with a baseball bat. The driver of the vehicle was able to drive away, and was intercepted by an officer who had responded to the call. The driver was found to be the victim of an armed robbery.

The driver reported that one of the suspects had a handgun, and that he had been struck with a baseball bat. He had minor bruising and declined medical attention. The driver was uncooperative with officers and only wanted his property located and returned. The suspects had stolen the victim's cell phone and his wallet, which contained his identification, an ATM card, and a small amount of cash. Officers set up a perimeter and discovered through witness interviews that the suspects lived where the crime had occurred. The officers located one of the suspects, and he was taken into custody. He gave consent to search his residence, and a handgun was found inside. The investigation is continuing.



ENGINEERING:

Library Project - Demolition and Grading. Rain has delayed the continued demolition of the Library building. Once all the concrete and debris are removed, grading operations will begin.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Curb and gutter has been poured on Colorado and Lemon, including the sidewalks and street light foundations.

Underground Utility District - Mountain and Royal Oaks. Trenching and conduit installation began at the intersection of Royal Oaks and Shamrock, however, the rain has delayed the work. The construction will precede easterly to Mountain; then southerly crossing Huntington.

Santa Anita Dam and Reservoir Sediment Removal. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will be removing sediment behind Santa Anita Dam and transport it along Chantry Flats Road to the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds in Arcadia. The project does not impact Monrovia.

Live Oak / Arrow Highway Street Reconstruction. The City of Irwindale is starting road construction on Live Oak/Arrow Highway that will impact the intersection of Live Oak and Peck in Monrovia. Travel lanes are being reduced to 1 lane in each direction. Staff has reviewed and approved the traffic control plans for the project east of Peck Road.

Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements; Curb, gutter, sidewalks, irrigation for street trees, street light locations, utility vault adjustments are continuing.
- Bus Shelter Construction, rain delayed, tile work and stucco being rescheduled.
- 911 Royal Oaks, Curb, Handicap ramp construction at Mountain and Royal Oaks pending
- California/Monrovista/Duarte, Building pads are formed, 2nd story framing 85% complete. Edison pole removal is 3-4 weeks away. Staff is monitoring for storm water compliance.
- 202 E. Foothill, Final punch list created, 4 of the 6 units have been finalized by Public Works.
- 208 Terrace View, Retaining wall construction, walls being grouted
- 1419 S. Myrtle, West and north concrete walls are standing. The east and south walls are being formed and poured on the slab and will be erected after the concrete has cured. Sewer lateral televised for potential re-use upon review of video tape inspection.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Outdoor Education. Staff participated in Outdoor Education at Plymouth Elementary School this week by providing an interactive environmental presentation on storm water pollution prevention, used oil recycling, and the three R's - Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

Green Team. The Green Team had its Monthly Planning and Updates Meeting to discuss the Mid-year Report (presented to City Council on January 15th), Intergy Corporation's Energy Use and Efficiency Audit for City Facilities, Green Article series topics for Monrovia Today, Green Team logo design ideas, and annual report formats. Additionally, staff discussed more eco-friendly choices for purchasing coffee cups, plates and utensils.

Intergy Corporation, affiliate to the San Gabriel Valley Energywise Partnership, is continuing with the Energy Audit and inspections as part of the Model City Program. This will determine where energy consumption can be reduced or eliminated and will help to accomplish many of the Monrovia Environmental Accords' Energy Action Items.

Corporate Yard Painting. Painting of the Corporate Yard building exterior was delayed this week due to rain and will be rescheduled for a later date. Customer parking has temporarily been relocated from the south to the north parking area during the project.

Graffiti Removal. Staff spent five man hours removing graffiti from Recreation Park.

Huntington Drive Medians. Parks staff has been repairing the faulty valves and sprinkler heads in the Huntington Drive medians this week. To save water, the irrigation systems are presently turned off in anticipation of the weekend rains.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Removed graffiti from 48 traffic signs
- Replaced Stop sign at Foothill and Heliotrope
- Replaced damaged street sweeping sign at 1110 Royal Oaks.
- Straightened sign post at Patrician Way and Alta Vista
- Installed 5 safe hit delineators at the off ramp of the westbound 210 freeway at Huntington Dr.

Road Repairs:

- Underneath the 210 Freeway overpass at Huntington
- 1830 S. Mayflower
- Myrtle Ave. south of Huntington Dr.
- Cleared debris from roadways and sidewalks generated by this week's rain storms.

Sidewalk Repairs:

- 147, 206, 213, 226, Fig Street
- 110, 212, 264, E. Cypress Avenue
- 255, 261, 278 E. Cherry Avenue

Miscellaneous:

- City Yard custom concrete construction project.
- Sandbagged roadway at 714 Norumbega Dr. to prevent storm water run-off onto property.
- Delivered to Fire Station 1, 1500 empty sandbags for distribution to residents and 200 filled sandbags for emergency use.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,419 water meters were read and recorded
- 37 utilities work orders were completed
- 16 water meters were replaced
- 18 backflow notices were sent out

Water Production

Water consumption is 35.7 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 9% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

As of Thursday morning, January 24, 1.33" of rain was recorded totaling of 8.92" for the year.

Utility Maintenance

- 2-1" water services were upgraded
- 1-2" water meter was installed
- 10-1" water meters were replaced
- 19 Fire Hydrants were inspected and flushed out
- 9 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 60 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 14,729 feet of sewer mains were cleaned

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Fri., Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m.	Chamber Annual Membership & Awards Dinner, The Courtyard by Marriott
Sat., Feb. 2, 5:00 p.m.	Boys & Girls "For Love of Youth" Dinner & Auction, Doubletree Hotel
Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
<i>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18</i>	<i>PRESIDENT'S DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i>
Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Tues., March 4, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Tues., March 18, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Lawmakers push light-rail project

Metro Gold Line plan gets strong backing

By Fred Ortega, Staff Writer

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With a key decision on extending the Metro Gold Line expected today, Rep. Hilda Solis and other local lawmakers are working behind the scenes, meeting with officials and writing letters to try to make the planned light-rail line to Montclair a reality.

The El Monte Democrat and her colleagues, Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, and Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, met last week with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to discuss local transportation-related issues, including the \$1.4 billion, 24-mile Gold Line extension from Pasadena to Montclair.

Villaraigosa, who wields multiple votes on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, has expressed support for plans to further extend the line to the Ontario Airport. His support is key because the MTA Board will vote today on whether to include the project in its long-range transportation plan, a move that Gold Line officials say is crucial in order to keep the extension in the running for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

Solis, who has also written to the MTA urging it to include the project in its long-range plan, was confident about the extension's prospects. "It is going to happen," she said Wednesday.

Dreier, a longtime Gold Line supporter, has also written to the MTA Board urging it to fund the extension, said spokeswoman Alisa Do. "This is something that is long overdue," said Do, noting that the environmental studies and preliminary design for dollars coming into the Southland, and the Gold Line is the project for that."

None of the other projects vying for the MTA's long-range plan list, including the proposed "Subway to the Sea" Westside extension to Santa Monica, are anywhere near as ready to begin construction as the Gold Line, Do added.

And with a connection to the Ontario Airport, the Gold Line extension also would benefit residents on the Westside by providing a rail alternative to LAX, Solis said. "The Gold Line would alleviate congestion on that side of town, so it is a win-win for everyone," she said.

Getting the project on the MTA long-range plan list is a necessary step in order for officials to apply for federal transportation grants for the extension, said Habib Balian, CEO of the Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority.

Legislators have included language in a federal transportation bill that could give the project 80 percent funding, or roughly \$320 million, to build the first leg to the Azusa-Glendora border. But even if the bill is approved, the 80 percent language is only a recommendation and does not guarantee all of the money, Schiff said.

In addition, local officials still have to come up with the remaining \$80 million for the first leg. Cities along the route have so far pledged \$1 million each, but Gold Line extension officials hope that the MTA will be able to provide the bulk of the local funding.

Schiff said he has been calling individual MTA Board members to urge them to include the project in the long-range plans and to ask them to use Proposition 1B funds - approved by voters in November 2006 as part of a \$20 billion transportation bond package - to come up with some of the \$80 million in local funding needed. The board is scheduled to program about \$200 million of those funds today, but MTA staff is recommending that the bulk of that money go toward bus improvements, not for rail.

Schiff said that with the MTA's long-term commitment and part of the Prop. 1B funds, "We feel pretty good about our chances" of getting the federal matching grants. He also said during his meeting with Villaraigosa, the mayor expressed concerns about the congestion problems in the San Gabriel Valley and reiterated his support for the Gold Line's extension to the Ontario Airport.

A spokesman for Villaraigosa did not return calls Wednesday seeking comment.

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