



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



April 25, 2008

## ***New SOPs in the EOC***

On Wednesday, City departments staged a “walk through” of new federal procedures for the utilization of the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The implementation of these new standard operating procedures – the Federal Incident Management System (or NIMS) – requires some modifications to Monrovia’s existing protocols. For example, the EOC has been reconfigured into four basic response units: Management, Operations (Police, Fire & Public Works), Planning & Intelligence, and Logistics & Finance. The reason for the change revolves primarily around the federal government’s desire to standardize emergency response across the country and to streamline the cost reimbursement protocols for local governments. This drill and the upcoming tabletop drills with individual departments are all in preparation for the City-wide disaster drill scheduled for this November. To read more about this exercise, scroll down to the Fire Department’s section of this report.

## **Summer Concert Relocation**

With the ongoing Public Library construction in Library Park, Community Services staff is preparing for the temporary relocation of the summer concert series to Recreation Park. Thus far, staff has contemplated locating concerts either along Constitution Circle (to the west of the Boys & Girls Club), in the lawn south of the Historical Museum, and/or in the outfield of Barney Glenn Field. Additionally, because of the unique circumstances of this relocation, Community Services staff is also exploring taking the concerts “on the road” and possibly staging concerts at different locations around town (perhaps MHS or other school sites, other City parks, etc.). In any event, the matter must be decided soon; so if you have any suggestions, please let us know!

## **Gold Line Rushes MTA**

On Thursday morning, hundreds of Gold Line supporters descended upon the MTA’s monthly Board Meeting to decry the fact that the Gold Line Foothill Extension has been left out of the funded portion of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It seemed as though some Board members were equally impressed by the showing and dismayed by the fact the San Gabriel Valley will not simply fade away. The SGV has long been denied real equity with other parts of the County when it comes to the allocation of transit dollars. At this point, I hope and expect that members of the MTA Board have come to understand that they can no longer dismiss the SGV. No doubt, we will participate in the MTA Board’s meetings in May and – especially – June. The LRTP, which is a *twenty year* planning document, is set to be voted on in June. If we miss out now, we may not get another shot.

In this overly political and Byzantine process, it seems that the only means of getting your voice heard is sustained communication and involvement. The good public policy reasoning that the Gold Line Foothill Extension is cost-effective, ready to build, sits on an existing right-of-way, and comes with the promise of a 2/3 match of federal construction funds, does not seem to weigh heavily enough on the MTA. Thus, it is critical that Gold Line advocates stay in front of the MTA Board for as long as it takes until the Board understands that *they cannot afford to not build this project*. While the formal comment period on the LRTP is now closed, you can still contact individual Board members to express your views.

## **Public Works Director David Fike to Retire**

David Fike has recently advised me that he will resign from his position as Public Works Director this summer. While I am certainly happy for Dave, I am truly sad to see him go. His work ethic, good humor, desire to achieve and please, and his loyalty to the organization are all unparalleled. Dave has been with Monrovia for about 14 years. He has given everything Monrovia's ever asked, and more. Congratulations, Dave; and thank you for your support, hard work and friendship.

## **Articles Attached**

- **Extension of Gold Line Gets Support.** As the regional transit authority, the MTA must demonstrate the vision – and plain common sense – of tying in the SGV into the County's rail transit system.
- **Editorial – Congestion Pricing's Cost.** It is foolhardy to believe that congestion pricing can work effectively until and unless commuters have real transit options. Without the Gold Line Foothill Extension and the demonstration of good faith for real regional transit solutions, congestion pricing and even the proposed ½ cent sales tax being floated by MTA board members has little hope of success.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Development Review Committee Recap. The Committee heard the following application at its April 23 meeting:

- A request for a minor exception to exceed the maximum fence height limit in the front yard setback located at 714 Norumbega Drive was approved.

### Special Events:

- Y'Sharis Hand & Foot Spa, 144 E. Colorado Blvd., will be holding their Grand Opening, April 25 – 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The activities will include a barbeque and a DJ providing music.
- Centre Stage, Inc/Centre Stage Academy., 127 E. Olive Ave., will be having a fundraising event, "Pancakes and Popstars", at First Presbyterian Church, 101 E. Foothill Blvd. on Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. Fundraising activities will include a pancake breakfast and a music marathon. The proceeds help to offer scholarships, and build sets for the Performing Arts Studio.
- The Monrovia Historic Preservation Group will be offering a Mother's Day Tour again of several historical homes on Sunday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The alleyway between the 300-400 blocks of North Melrose and Magnolia will be closed off to through traffic for the safety of pedestrians and for the placement of vintage vehicles. Several homes in this neighborhood are part of the tour this year – 344 Melrose and 351, 407 and 423 N. Magnolia.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. At it's regularly schedule meeting on April 23, the Commission acted on the following items:

- Historic Landmark 121 and Mills Act Contract 115 -The Craftsman home located at 123 S. Heliotrope Avenue was forwarded to the City Council with a recommendation of approval for designation as a historic landmark.
- Historic Landmark 122 and Mills Act Contract 116 - The Neo Classical Transitional Craftsman home located at 236 E. Foothill Boulevard was forwarded to the City Council with a recommendation of approval for designation as a historic landmark.

- A Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for installation of a Victorian style gazebo with Jacuzzi for the side yard area of Historic Landmark HL-2/ Mills Act Contract MA-2 located at 329 Melrose Avenue.
- A Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for construction of a Victorian style detached two-car garage at the rear of the property of Historic Landmark HL-112/ Mills Act contract MA-106 located at 419 West Lime Avenue.
- The home located at 637 West Olive Avenue was determined to not have any architectural or historic significance and was approved for demolition.
- The Commission reviewed a façade remodel for 419 South Myrtle Avenue and provided the applicant with direction on how to proceed with the remodel. A Mills Act condition requiring review of the foundation material for the property at 336 N. Ivy Avenue was discussed. The foundation material was allowed to remain as long as the owner provided sufficient landscaping to disguise the material.
- Two properties were reviewed for possible non-compliance of their Mills Act Contract conditions. The property at 123 Melrose provided a last minute update while the owner of 164 N. Encinitas submitted a letter requesting a time extension of their condition. The request for time extension will be addressed at the next HPC meeting since it was not on the agenda for approval of a time extension.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

National Library Week. Throughout last week, the library was abuzz with fun activities. The public enjoyed giveaways and demonstrations of painting, pet massage and quilting inside the gymnasium of the library's temporary facility. On Tuesday, Mary Archibald, local artist who teaches at the Monrovia Adult School, demonstrated the art of watercolor. Participants of all ages received instruction and were able to take home a painting that they created. On Wednesday, Pam Holt, a registered veterinary technician and certified massage therapist from Buddha Dog, demonstrated pet massage. Pam brought Shug, a Dachshund/Corgi mix, to assist her with the demonstration. We learned that just like with humans, therapeutic massage helps increase energy, comfort, and flexibility and helps decrease pain, stress and tension. On Thursday, Jan Emanuel and Althea Kennedy, co-founders of Quilting Sistahs, demonstrated the art of quilting. Their original, one of a kind quilts were breathtakingly beautiful.

Movie Night a Big Success. Monrovia Public Library's Literacy Services showed the live-action version of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* to more than 40 adults and children who participate in Literacy Services. Learners received copies of the book and a study guide a month ago and were encouraged to read it before attending the movie. Movie Night created enthusiasm about reading the book before being able to attend the special event. It also created community as many learners and tutors were reading the same book and enjoyed discussing it. For many literacy students, both adults and children, reading is a challenge, rather than a pleasure, so showing the movie created a sense of fun around reading. Literacy Services strives not only to build literacy skills, but to impart the joy of reading.

Reading Becomes a Joy for Monrovia Reads and Plays Youth. One of the goals of Monrovia Reads and Plays, the City's mobile library and recreation unit, is to improve the academic performance of youth in the program. Staff looked at the report cards of many of the youth and saw significant improvement for numerous students. Because of the high number of adults working at MRP, both staff and volunteers, we are able to give individual help to struggling students. Not only has this been reflected in improved grades, but also in students asking to read. Many youth who did not enjoy reading when we started MRP now ask to read with the adults, as there is a mentorship bond

between the youth and adults. Staff has been very excited to see the improvement in grades and the enthusiasm about reading and learning.

Tutors Share Successes and Challenges in Literacy Tutoring. Library literacy tutors gathered for dinner, networking and training last week at the Library. Volunteer tutors shared ideas and best practices with one another over dinner and then received training on good writing skills, led by AmeriCorps volunteer Chris Hynes. Literacy tutors are volunteers who have varying levels of training and experience. Networking with each other creates new ideas and builds a sense of community among tutors. On-going training on a variety of topics also increases their skill level and the success of their students.

Booktalks at Santa Fe Middle School. Shawn Thrasher, Senior Librarian – Youth Services, took the library on the road Tuesday, April 22, 2008. The Santa Fe Middle School Librarian invited Library staff to “booktalk” for approximately 120 students. “Booktalking” involves a librarian giving a five-minute teaser for a book, similar to a movie trailer. Shawn brought 20 middle school fiction and nonfiction books along, including favorites such as *Stuck In Neutral* by Terry Trueman, *Jade Green* by Phyllis Reynolds, *Oh Yuck: The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty* by Joy Masoff, and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Bug Out. Young entomologists should fly, hop or creep down to the Santa Anita Family YMCA for “Buggy about Reading” at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. An enthusiastic children’s librarian will be reading aloud from some of her favorite stories about all kinds of bugs. Six-legged guest stars will also be on hand for children to study and hold.

Senior Grab Bag Trip. On Thursday, May 22 get ready for whatever the day may bring as you join Monrovia’s Grab Bag Excursion! You won’t know where you’re going until you get there! Dress in comfortable shoes in preparation for a one hour walking tour. Coffee and Danish will be served before boarding the bus and lunch is included in the price of the program. Contact the Monrovia Community Center at (626) 256-8246 for additional information and reservations.

Departure Time: 9:30 a.m.

Returning Time: 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10

Reservations must be made in advance

2008 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon – Monrovia “Thanks You”. On Thursday, May 1 at 11:30 a.m. at the Monrovia Community Center, an event will be held for the dedicated volunteers donating their time in support of the community. Volunteers who have contributed 52 volunteer hours or more in 2007 will be treated to a luncheon, served by City department heads. This dedicated group of volunteers will also receive a gift card from Albertsons and a recognition certificate. During the event the Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year and Older American of the Year will be announced. For more information contact the Monrovia Volunteer Center, (626) 256-8187.

Earth Day at Canyon Park. Canyon Park staff and volunteers celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 19. Eighty-three volunteers donated four hours each to help restore seven native gardens and clear brush in Canyon Park. Nine dump trucks of debris and brush were removed. Workers were comprised of scouts, high school groups, local businesses, families, and individuals. The Earth Day event helped staff to complete native garden maintenance objectives and to get a head start on meeting Fire Department roadside fire clearance policies.

## **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to 86 emergency calls from 0800 hours April 16, to 0800 hours April 23. Significant incidents include:

STEMI Call on North Primrose Avenue – On April 22 at 11:02 a.m., fire and rescue units responded to a 56-year-old man complaining of chest pain. Personnel evaluated the patient and found he was having a STEMI (S-T Elevation Myocardial Infarction) using the 12 lead EKG monitor. As with all patients having a STEMI, he was transported to the Cardiac Center at Arcadia Methodist Hospital. Patient was admitted directly to the cardiac catheterization lab where they performed an angioplasty and proceeded to the operating room for a triple cardiac bypass. Upon follow-up, hospital personnel said patient's prognosis is uncertain given the delay in calling 911, but acknowledged the rapid, thorough assessment and treatment given by personnel on scene and en route to the hospital.

## **FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Brush clearance letters and brush chipper program brochures were sent and received last week by residents in the brush inspection area. Inspections to check for compliance will start on May 15. While the residents and the Fire Department have always been diligent about being fire-wise, it is especially important during a year of low precipitation. The clearance requirement is 200 feet from all structures. Clearance guidelines can be found on the City's website. There is also a list of plants that are drought tolerant on the website. We're very proud that we can offer the Brush Chipper Program again this year, but funding is less this year, so clear early to take advantage of this service.

## **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

On Sunday, April 20, Monrovia Firefighters hosted and held a charity fundraiser car wash to raise money for Saturday's Relay for Life Breast Cancer Walk at Library Park. While on-duty crews assisted, a majority of off-duty Monrovia Firefighters volunteered their time to help in this event. The car wash was held in the parking lot of Expo Design Center on the corner of Huntington Drive and Mayflower Avenue. Donations, as opposed to a fixed price, were asked of patrons and approximately \$1,800 was raised for this worthy cause. Special thanks go out to all the Firefighters, especially Engineer Jeremy Sanchez and Captain Dave Rapp for spearheading the fundraiser.

## **SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

*Today MF E102 brought us a patient with an Acute ST Elevation Myocardia Infarction (MI). They treated this patient with speed and efficiency. The patient was very sick from the start of the call and received excellent care in the field. Time from the first field EKG to balloon inflation was 36 minutes. This is incredible time. Every minute that we save in getting the patient to the cardiac catheter lab saves muscle. Unfortunately the patient had waited 2 hours to call 911 so his MI and damage to his myocardium was severe. There is some question if the patient will survive, but getting him to the hospital in rapid time certainly improved this possibility.*

*Captain Patrick and his team should be commended for providing excellent quality care to the citizens of Monrovia,*

*Suzette M Otlewis RN, BSN, MICN, Prehospital Care Coordinator for Methodist Hospital in Arcadia*

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week, the Fire Department conducted a City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill, simulated a building collapse with people trapped and injured. It was both a field drill where Fire, Police and EMS personnel responded to the site for search and rescue operations, along with treatment and transport of injured patients, as well as a table-top exercise to introduce EOC staff to new federal requirements. The Federal Government has improved the requirements for management within the EOC during a community disaster following the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Unlike the process previously used by the City, where each department would send representatives to the EOC to help manage field work of that particular department, NIMS recognizes the need for management specific organization instead of department specific organization. Under the new Federal NIMS requirements, the EOC is divided among five sections following the new Monrovia multi-hazard function plan, including Management, Operations, Planning & Intelligence, Logistics and Finance. Each of these five sections have City staff assigned and trained to complete management functions specific to that section and work collaboratively with field units to support the incident and mitigate the disaster.

City staff continue to hone their skills related to the new Federal NIMS requirements, as evidenced by the series of classes that have been take to gain Federal compliance, the on-going training within the department hosted by the Fire Department and now the table-top drills that will walk staff through the new management requirements. This is a new process for Monrovia City staff as we have created a new plan, identified staff to hold new positions and have created the five sections within the EOC indentified above, but given the motivation of City Staff and the success of today's drill, we will certainly be ready if a disaster where to strike our community.

The drill and EOC activation was very positive and many thanks go out to Battalion Chief Scott Haberle, Captain Ron Pelham and their crew for the hard work in preparing for the drill. Thanks is also due to the City staff, from City Manager Scott Ochoa to the newest member of the department that participated in the drill, as we have collectively embraced this change in philosophy and have continued to demonstrate fantastic support for serving the constituents of Monrovia with care, concern and commitment.

## **ON THE POLICE BLOTTER**

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 542 calls for service resulting in 109 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Mountain Lion. On April 17, at 11:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 700 Block of Norumbega regarding a mountain lion that attacked a 75-pound dog. The resident stated the mountain lion was trying to drag his dog off when he struck the lion with a garden rake. He said the very large mountain lion dropped his dog after being hit with the rake and leaped over the west fence in his backyard. Fish and Game was notified and will attempt to track the mountain lion. The dog was taken to an animal hospital for its injuries.

Fighting in Public. On April 18 at 6:21 p.m., on the corner of Myrtle and Colorado during Family Festival, officers responded to two families fighting. Officers broke up the fight between two male subjects. Several subjects were cited for fighting in public and one was booked for likelihood of reoccurrence.

Outside Assist. On April 18 at 11:30 p.m., officers responded to the 210 Freeway and Huntington regarding a car that ran off the freeway and onto the embankment. Officers handled the scene until California Highway Patrol Officers arrived. No injuries.

Stolen Vehicle. On April 19 at 1:38 a.m., Monrovia Officers and Pasadena Police Helicopter received a LOJACK hit on a stolen pick-up truck in the area of Wildrose and Foothill. Units eventually caught up to the vehicle at Winding Oaks and Bradbury. A High Risk traffic stop was initiated and the driver, a male adult, was arrested. Four juveniles who were also in the truck were arrested for curfew violation and cited out to their parents.

Resisting Arrest / Drunk in Public. On April 20 at 4:53 p.m., dispatch received calls of a male subject who appeared under the influence of an unknown substance walking south on Primrose toward Huntington. As he walked, he was shouting profanities and hitting signs. Officers located him in the parking lot of the 400 Block of West Huntington. He yelled profanities at the officers and refused to comply with their commands. Officers wrapped their arms around the subject and restrained him by taking him to the ground. He continued to struggle with the officers. An officer applied a short burst of pepper spray which enabled them to subdue and handcuff him. He was arrested, booked and housed without further incident.

Under the Influence of Controlled Substance. On April 21 at 8:19 a.m., a retired police officer observed a female driving erratically and eventually hit the center divider at Myrtle and Duarte. Officers arrived and conducted a driving under the influence investigation. She was determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance. A usable amount of cocaine was found in her purse as well as paraphernalia. She was booked on the listed charges.

Vehicle Burglary. On April 22 at 11:10 an officer responded to the 1600 Block South Fifth regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim said the vehicle was broken into sometime the night before. The items that were taken were GPS, IPOD, camera and checks. Investigation is continuing.

Robbery. On April 22 at 2:40 p.m., an officer responded to the 500 Block of West Huntington. The Loss Prevention Officer was reporting a male and female subject in their late twenties had taken merchandise from the store. The subjects left walking westbound. The subjects were detained by the store security in the parking lot. A struggle between them took place over a handbag full of merchandise. Some of the property fell out of the handbag and was recovered. Both subjects were arrested.

Residential Burglary. On April 22 at 3:54 a.m., officers responded to the 1300 Block South Mayflower regarding a residential burglary. The victim told them that someone forced the garage door open to gain entry into the residence and stole his laptop. The property is not alarmed. Investigating is continuing

Weapons Offense / Parole Hold. On April 22 at 4:34 p.m., officers responded to 700 Block of South Monterey regarding some people selling drugs at the playground area in the center of the complex. The subjects involved were two females and two males. When officers arrived, a male subject took off running. The subject was caught and detained. The subject who ran apparently discarded a magazine from a handgun on the ground and threw a semi-auto pistol over the wall. Both of these were recovered. The subject was arrested and charged with a number of weapon violations and a parole hold was obtained on him. The reporting party was contacted and he was awarded \$100 as part of our Gun Bounty Program.

Stolen Vehicle . On March 23 at 1:10 p.m., we received a call from the 900 Block of West Duarte Road reporting his truck had just been stolen from the location. No direction of travel was given. Officers responded for an area check but did not find the truck. Investigation is continuing.

Felony Vandalism. On March 23 at 5:47 p.m., a citizen called to report two male subjects across the wash tagging at the base of the bridge with green spray paint. When officers arrived, they saw two subjects running southbound toward Duarte Road on the eastside of the wash. The subjects were detained by officers on the perimeter. Field show-ups with the reporting party confirmed these subjects. Officers found numerous cans of spray paint, and a lot of tagging. One subject is a juvenile and the other is an adult. The subjects were arrested and charged with felony vandalism. The reporting party on this call will receive the Stop Graffiti reward.

# THE PUBLIC WORKS **SCOOP**



## **ENGINEERING:**

Colorado Commons Paseo Improvements. Staff completed the installation of the archway at the mid-block crosswalk on Myrtle between Lemon and Colorado leading to the Colorado Commons Paseo Oak Tree Plaza. In addition, an information kiosk displaying an Old Town map was installed.

Chantry Flats Road Repair. Staff has received the final construction documents from the engineers and the plans have been submitted to FEMA for final approval prior to the initiation of construction activities.

700 S. Myrtle - Urban Housing Group. Grading operations have begun and it is estimated that 7000 cubic yards of fill material will be required for the project. The truck route will utilize the 210 Freeway, Myrtle Avenue, Walnut Avenue into the site and return via the same route.

Sunesys Inc. - Fiber Optic/Cable Interconnection of MUSD. Staff has received an application from Sunesys Inc to install a fiber optic/cable line system to connect all campuses of the Monrovia Unified School District and District offices. We will be enforcing the City's Rule 20A underground utility district on Royal Oaks and Mountain.

### Public Works Inspections:

- Bus Shelter Construction
- California/Monrovia/Duarte Project
- 1419 S. Myrtle Office Building
- 714 Norumbega
- 705 Norumbega
- 214 N. Madison
- 753 E. Foothill
- 1128 S. Myrtle
- 110 E. Colorado
- 184 N. Canyon
- 371 N. Alta Vista
- 258 Valley Vista
- 123 Sunset
- 139 E. Olive

## **OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:**

Composting Workshop. The Countywide Smart Gardening program will host a Spring Workshop at the LA County Arboretum on May 3, 2008 (301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia). Beginning workshops will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 am with a composting bin sale to follow. A workshop covering water-efficient irrigation systems, basic landscape design, soils and fertilizers and California friendly plants will be from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Backyard composting bins will be sold at a subsidized rate of \$30 for a backyard composting bins and \$55 for a worm bin (includes ½ lb. of worms). You must attend a workshop in order to qualify for the subsidized price. For more information visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com) or call 1-888-CLEANLA.

FREE Waste Tire Collection and Recycling Event – May 17, 2008. A FREE tire recycling event, will take place on May 17, 2008 from 9am-3pm at the Bell Gardens City Yard, 5320 E. Gage Ave. Participants will receive a coupon for 15% off their next purchase of Firestone or Bridgestone tires. No tires from businesses and no oversized or tractor tires will be accepted. For more information, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com).

Quarterly NPDES Public Education Meeting. Staff attended the April NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Quarterly Public Education Meeting at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters. Agenda items included updates on the County-wide stormwater quality/pollution prevention media campaign, educational program and County-wide Smart Gardening workshops.

Window Tint at Temporary Library. Window tinting film was installed on the lobby windows at the Temporary Library / Mary Wilcox Youth Center.

#### On-going Projects.

- Historical Museum Roof Replacement Project
- Fire Station 102 Butler Building Project

Corporate Yard Landscape. The front landscape at the Corporate Yard is receiving its finishing touches. Parks staff planted drought resistant plants and spread mulch and decorative bark in the landscaped areas.

Recreation Park. Parks staff focused on Recreation Park this week as the American Cancer Relay for Life will be held there from Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 27. Staff is working with the Community Services Department, who is coordinating the event.

Tree Trimming. City Tree contractors, West Coast Arborists, are wrapping up the City tree trimming this week and will begin the annual roadside brush clearance trimming in accordance with Fire Department regulations.

#### **STREETS:**

##### Traffic Signs:

- Graffiti was removed from 27 traffic signs.
- Repainting of the City's red curbs between Huntington and Foothill from Mountain to Myrtle

Foothill and Ivy Trench Plate. Our Streets crew repaired a pothole in the concrete pavement on Foothill Boulevard at Ivy created by a damaged storm drain pipe that was repaired earlier this year. The concrete repair required 28 days to cure which necessitated the plate placement for the past several weeks. This week the plate will be removed.

##### Miscellaneous:

- Trip hazard mitigation throughout the City continues.
- Installed fencing around Hazardous Materials area at the City Yard.

#### **UTILITIES:**

##### Customer Service

- 2,371 water meters were read and recorded
- 46 utilities work orders were completed
- 5 water meters were replaced
- 29 water services were reactivated

Water Production. Water consumption is 53.5 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

Utility Maintenance

- 1 - 8" fire service was removed
- 1 - 1" service was removed
- 1 - 1" water service was upgraded to copper
- 2 water service leaks were repaired
- 1 fire hydrant was replaced
- 31 fire hydrants were maintained and flushed
- 84 water system valves were inspected and operated
- 29 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 13,392 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 204 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

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| <b>Thurs., May 1, 11:30 a.m.</b>       | <b>Annual Volunteer Luncheon, Community Center</b>                    |
| <b>Mon., May 5, 5:00 p.m.</b>          | <b>Monrovia Reads Cinco de Mayo Event, Krikorian Premier Theater</b>  |
| <b>Tues., May 6, 7:30 p.m.</b>         | <b>Regular Council Meeting</b>  |
| <b>Sat., May 10, 7 to 11 a.m.</b>      | <b>Fire Department Open House/Pancake Breakfast, Fire Station 101</b> |
| <b>Sat., May 10, 11 to 1 p.m.</b>      | <b>MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Walnut</b>                              |
| <b>Sun., May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b> | <b>MOPHG Mother's Day Tour</b>  |
| <b>Sat., May 17, 9:00 a.m.</b>         | <b>Monrovia Day Parade</b>  |
| <b>Tues., May 20, 7:30 p.m.</b>        | <b>Regular Council Meeting</b>  |

## **CMO ATTACHMENTS:**

### **Extension of Gold Line Gets Support – Pasadena Star-News, April 24, 2008**

By Fred Ortega, Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES - College students from throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond converged on Metro headquarters Thursday to urge the agency's board to approve construction of the Gold Line extension to Montclair.

The students - who came from Citrus College, Mt. SAC, Cal Poly Pomona, Azusa Pacific University and as far away as Chafee College in Rancho Cucamonga - waved banners and chanted "Build it!" and "Bring it east!" as they walked to Metro headquarters from Union Station, after arriving on the Gold Line train from Pasadena.

"This is our last chance to make our case to the board," said Kristen Manes, 23, a media arts major from Mt. Sierra College in Monrovia who helped start the [iwillride.org](http://iwillride.org) Web site.

The Web site has already collected more than 2,000 pledges from commuters promising to ride the proposed 24-mile light rail extension - if it is ever built.

The Metro Board must decide in June whether to include the \$1.4 billion project on a critical funding list, a necessary step required to leverage up to \$320 million in federal matching funds to build the first leg of the line to the Azusa-Glendora border.

The students - part of an 80-person convoy that made the trek by train from Pasadena to show support for the project - gave various reasons for wanting to see the extension completed.

"When I was in high school gas was \$1.50 per gallon and now it is close to \$4 a gallon," said Mike Paolini, 19, an emergency management major at Citrus College. "As a student with limited money, I don't like the idea of oil and automobile companies dictating where I can go."

Improving the environment was the driving force behind Emily Romo's support for the Gold Line extension.

"I feel the extension will help people maintain sustainable environment, because as the San Gabriel Valley continues to increase in population, traffic and pollution will only get worse," said Romo, 21, an English major at the University of La Verne, who is also part of the school's Green Institute for Village Empowerment.

Officials estimate that once completed, the extension will eliminate 126 tons of carbon monoxide from the air and save about 1.5 million gallons of gasoline each year.

Joining the students Thursday were local elected officials and business leaders from throughout the region, including La Verne Mayor John Blickenstaff.

"These students are one more example of the broad base of support for this project," said Blickenstaff, also chair of the Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Board. "Education is a major factor with the many education institutions along the line, all in support of this project."

The Gold Line extension does not just benefit those in the San Gabriel Valley, said Mark Harmsen, a spokesman for Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas.

"They have a lot of traffic pressure at LAX and we can take that pressure off by extending this line to the Ontario Airport," said Harmsen. "That would benefit L.A., as well as the San Gabriel Valley."

Manes, the Mt. Sierra student, said with speeds on the Foothill (210) Freeway projected to average just 10 mph by 2025, the region has no choice but to invest in mass transit projects like the Gold Line.

"You can run faster than that," she said. "How are the students of the future supposed to get to school?"

The show of support for the Gold Line - nearly half of those in attendance at Thursday's meeting were there in favor of the project - was acknowledged by Metro Board Chairwoman Pam O'Connor.

"I'd like to ask staff for a report on the Gold Line, its status and readiness, because of the support shown today," O'Connor said.

If Metro does not include the project on the funded list of its long-range transportation plan - a move that would also require a roughly \$80 million commitment from the agency - the beginning of construction on the extension could be delayed beyond the end of 2009.

Residents have until today to write to the MTA to express support of the project.

For more information, visit [www.metrogoldline.org](http://www.metrogoldline.org)

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## **Congestion pricing's cost – Pasadena Star-News Editorial – April 25, 2008**

PAYING for the sometimes dubious pleasure of driving on the Foothill (210) Freeway, as well as the San Bernardino (10) Freeway from downtown Los Angeles through the San Gabriel Valley?

Hey, with gasoline prices around \$4 a gallon, it's not as if we don't pay through the nose already. The skyrocketing price of vehicles and maintenance doesn't keep matters cheap, either.

But Southern Californians, and especially those in Los Angeles County, have never grown accustomed to the toll roads that are very much the norm in other parts of the world and nation, and that are in some places the norm in counties to our south and east.

So if the concept is not exactly un-American, it's surely un-Angelino, here in the birthplace of the freeway.

But now comes an offer from the federal government of \$213 million in transit funds if we convert the car-pool lanes on stretches of those freeways to special toll lanes. The MTA Thursday approved it in concept; it needs two state approvals by October to go into effect.

It's called "congestion pricing," and the economic theory is that having to pay to drive at anything like speed would make motorists think twice about driving during the morning and afternoon times of endless gridlock, especially over the awful section of the 210 between downtown Pasadena and the San Gabriel River (605) Freeway.

Problem is - or one problem is - that if you're a working-stiff commuter, you don't have much of a choice about driving at those worst hours. Every morning, the 210 from the east is jam-packed into Pasadena; every evening - a concept that in recent years has extended into the quite early afternoon - the freeway from the west toward the central San Gabriel Valley and on into the Inland Empire is just the pits.

We haven't taken a poll, but we somehow don't imagine that many of those miserable-appearing motorists beside us on the 210 during those hours have simply chosen to run some errands or visit Aunt Martha in San Dimas.

We understand the economic concept of congestion pricing. We just want to raise some of the unintended consequences that would arise if it were to be implemented here:

The current car-pool lanes reward both those who have buddied up to take vehicles off the road and the good (and affluent) souls who've ponied up for hybrid cars and the state-issued stickers that allow them to use the lanes even when driving solo.

Speaking of the affluent, a regressive tax, which this in effect would be, is far easier for them to pay without any real pain than it would be for the working classes.

And if there were better mass transit than we currently enjoy - if the Gold Line light-rail line were completed from east Pasadena to Montclair, for instance - then there would be some real options during the commute time.

The federal bribe - er, offer - does include some new mass transit, though. The money would go toward the purchase of 60 new high-volume buses that would use the toll lanes as well.

Buses aren't now a major form of mass transit along the 210. But they are popular from El Monte into downtown L.A., and adding more into the mix would be an attractive incentive in the plan.

The millions became available to us after New York City failed to adopt its own controversial congestion-pricing plan. So Washington, D.C., looked west for some new guinea pigs on which to experiment.

As with any experiment, there would be plenty of unknowns here. The good news is that it would be hard to be worse than the 210 and 10 commuting status quo.