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| **Thursday, September 27, 2012120927-1****In this Issue:****Media Relations Staff responds to Media Inquiries about this Morning Press Conference Held by Metro Director Najarian and Four San Gabriel Valley Mayors at Metro Headquarters****Artists of the Metro Orange Line Exhibition Opens October 11, 2012 at Los Angeles Valley College****Media Inquiry on I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Construction Impacts** **I-405 Closure News Coverage Continues** **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notices** |
| **Media Relations Staff responds to Media Inquiries about this Morning Press Conference Held by Metro Director Najarian and Four San Gabriel Valley Mayors at Metro Headquarters**An early morning press conference drew members from several communities and elected officials from the cities of South Pasadena, Pasadena, Glendale and La Canada Flintridge to state their opposition to the advancement of the SR 710 environmental study. The emphasis of the opposition was on the tunnel (f-7) alternative, which is one of five alternatives currently under study as required by CEQA/NEPA law. Metro staff told the reporters this is the first year of a three year study. No decisions have been made and more details will become available as this portion of the environmental study moves along. Staff told reporters Metro welcomes hearing from all communities as this is a regional issue. Media in attendance included channels 4, 7, KNX radio, and the Pasadena Star News. Stories are expected to run today   **Artists of the Metro Orange Line Exhibition Opens October 11, 2012 at Los Angeles Valley College**Metro has organized an exciting new exhibition in collaboration with Los Angeles Valley College demonstrating how artists enrich the transit environment for Metro customers. Opening on October 11, Translations: Artists of the Metro Orange Line features the works of twenty artists commissioned for the Metro Orange Line. Learn more about the exhibition on [The Source](http://thesource.metro.net/2012/08/30/artists-of-the-metro-orange-line-exhibition-opens-october-11-at-los-angeles-valley-college-2/). **Media Inquiry on I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Construction Impacts** The Los Angeles Times has inquired about Westwood Hills homeowner complaints regarding construction impacts to their residences as part of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project. A group of homeowners has lodged multiple complaints about noise levels, vibration, sound and retaining walls, easements, backyard slopes and other issues. Project Director Michael Barbour briefed the reporter, saying that Metro has conducted several noise audits of construction work near Sepulveda Boulevard, and can verify that noise levels are under 86 decibels. Challenging daytime traffic has precluded crews from working mostly during daytime hours. Regarding other claims made by homeowners that have been denied by Metro’s contractor Kiewit, Metro is evaluating options to see which course of action to take to resolve them. Some homeowner issues related to right-of-way are the domain of Caltrans. As the project manager, Metro has worked with homeowners from the beginning on mitigations to reduce impacts both during design and construction phases. Metro is closely monitoring the actions of Kiewit and Caltrans, and has endeavored to be as responsive to these issues as possible. Because of a homeowner lawsuit against Metro, Metro could not comment on the financial dealings the project team has had or continues to have with these homeowners. A story is expected to run tomorrow as part of a series of articles about the project and I-405 closure this weekend.**I-405 Closure News Coverage Continues** The Los Angeles Times and numerous other media outlets have inquired about the I-405 freeway closure this weekend. The Times is planning to run a story today that provides an overview of the closure, demolition process and tips for the public to plan ahead in avoiding congestion impacts. Other outlets have inquired about destination discounts, contractor penalties, and Metro bus and rail services during the closure weekend. Media staff reported that Metro encourages the use of its public transit lines, and has added 10 miles of combined extra service with the Expo Line and Orange Line Extension to accommodate additional riders on both sides of the 405 project area. Additionally, Metrolink has added trips on the Ventura County Line during the weekend.  **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notices**Relocation of Water LineAs part of the construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will be relocating an existing underground water line currently located on Overland Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV), and its subcontractors. Work will take place on the two southbound lanes on Overland Avenue between Exposition Boulevard and Northvale Road. Construction work is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 1, 2012 through Friday, November 2, 2012. Day work hours are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and night work hours are scheduled from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_lo2mui4c54.pdf). Installation of Two Vaults and ConduitWork crews for Time Warner Cable Inc. will be installing two underground vaults and conduit in the City of Santa Monica. The work is being managed by the Time Warner Cable, the owner of the cable lines, and will be performed by its subcontractor, Fiber Tel Communications. Construction activities will be located in the center median on Olympic Boulevard between 21st Street and Cloverfield Boulevard. Construction work is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 1, 2012 through Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Work hours are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_6h6m3d0mu.pdf).  |
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