Daily Brief

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Judge Hatter Rules on Appointment of Special Master

Judge Terry Hatter has ruled that given the amount of time remaining before the Court is divested of its jurisdiction over the Consent Decree, the Court declines to appoint a successor special master. If the Court's jurisdiction is extended, it will revisit this issue.

Proposed FY 07 Budget

Numerous media outlets covered today's Board Workshop on the proposed FY 07 budget. I held a media briefing with reporters from the Los Angeles Times, Daily News and City News Service to outline the proposed budget. Media Relations also issued a news release highlighting the budget and the May 17th public hearing. Stories are expected to run tonight and tomorrow in area newspapers.

Link to News Release: http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/metro_057.htm

Infrastructure Bond News Conference

At the request of the Governor's Office, I attended a press conference this morning at the Burbank Airport where Governor Schwarzenegger joined Senate President pro Tem Don Perata, Senate Republican Leader Dick Ackerman, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assembly Republican Leader George Plescia to tout passage of the infrastructure bond. It was one of five press conferences planned throughout the day at various locations around the State. Mayor Villaraigosa also attended the event, as did Board members Fleming, Antonovich and Yaroslavsky.

Metro Vs. High Gasoline Costs

Channel 34 inquired today regarding transit alternatives as an option to high gasoline prices. Staff told the reporter that for the last three months ridership has increased 11% on rail and 7% on buses. With gasoline prices at more than \$3 a gallon, the public can ride all day on the entire Metro Bus and Rail system with a Metro Day Pass. Or if they decide to go all month, Metro offers the monthly pass for \$52, even less expensive than a tank of gas. A story will run tonight.

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