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Metro Releases Draft EIR on Proposed New Division 6

By RICK JAGER

(Oct. 21, 2004) Metro released the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Thursday, on the proposed new West Los Angeles Transportation Center (Division 6) for a 45-day public comment and review period.

The new Division 6 will be a modern, state-of-the-art bus operating facility for up to 175 CNG buses that will serve the community and other parts of Central and West Los Angeles.

The new location is a 4.7-acre site on Jefferson Boulevard between Rodeo Road and National Avenue. The facility will replace the current Division 6 located in Venice.

All access to the proposed division will be from Jefferson, with the bulk of the traffic in and out of the facility occurring well before and after rush hours to avoid traffic congestion in the area.

Evaluate possible impacts

The draft EIR will evaluate a wide range of possible impacts of the proposed facility. These include traffic, noise and air quality, which are the issues that have generated the most questions from the public so far.

Under regulations set by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a 45-day public comment period precedes the development of a final EIR. That document will incorporate comments submitted on the draft EIR and responses to those comments.

Before the project can proceed, the Board of Directors will review and vote on approval of the final EIR later this year. Public comments must be received by Dec. 6.