



APRIL 28, 1994

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CTC ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR CARPOOL LANES, METROLINK IMPROVEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has provided funds that will add carpool lanes, improve Metrolink service and increase environmental awareness in Los Angeles County.

The largest grant, \$19 million, will be used to construct carpool lanes on the 118 freeway from the I-5 interchange to the Ventura County border, a distance of 11.5 miles.

"Carpool lanes are an important element of our long-range transportation plan," said MTA Chairman and Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre. "This project will allow our auto-dependent commuters to contribute to less congestion and better air quality," he said. The CTC funds are in addition to \$28 million in Proposition C revenue committed by the MTA. The project is scheduled to open in 1997

"The CTC provided \$2.5 million to Metrolink for track and signal improvements between Union Station and Burbank junction," reported MTA CEO Frank White. "The improvements will allow increased speeds, and is part of a program to enhance rail service in the Ventura Corridor," he said.

Environmental awareness in general, and marine life in particular, were the beneficiaries of a \$385,000 CTC grant to the City of Los Angeles for the Heal the Bay project.

(MORE)

Heal the Bay, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, will stencil 37,500 storm drains with the familiar "No Dumping, This Drains to Ocean" message. The project also will distribute neighborhood information explaining the need to keep debris and hazardous materials out of the storm drain system.

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