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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MTA BOARD VOTE ADDS 38 QUALITY AND SAFETY  
MANAGERS AND INSPECTORS TO METRO RAIL STAFF**

The MTA Board voted today (Nov. 16) to add 6 new positions for construction quality and safety supervising personnel to the Metro Rail construction staff. An additional 32 quality and safety personnel currently working for consultants will now report directly to the MTA.

"This is an important action in the MTA's three-phase plan to assume full responsibility and accountability for construction of the Red Line," said Ed Edelman, MTA Chairman and County Supervisor. "It gives the MTA's construction executive direct oversight of quality assurance, quality control and construction safety -- an element missing under the previous organizational structure."

The Board's action will allow quality and safety supervisors currently employed by the construction management firm, Parsons-Dillingham, to immediately begin reporting to MTA managers. In time, these supervisors could be given the first opportunity to fill the positions on a permanent basis.

"The MTA will evaluate the performance and expertise of each of the P-D employees and permanently hire only those who have demonstrated the highest regard for quality and safety," said MTA CEO Franklin E. White. "We will fill vacant positions through an outside personnel search."

Of the 38 positions, a total of 22 will be assigned to quality assurance and control. The remaining 16 will be members of the construction safety staff. The positions will be funded from MTA capital funds already included in the Fiscal Year 1995 budget.

(MORE)

**PAGE 2, CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

Increasing the construction quality and safety staff is one aspect of a broader MTA plan developed in response to directives from the Federal Transit Administration which ordered a halt to tunneling on Hollywood Boulevard in October and has withheld \$1.6 billion in funding for future Metro Rail construction.

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