



NEWS

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OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

MTA BREAKS GROUND IN CHATSWORTH FOR METROLINK DEPOT AND CHILD CARE CENTER

The MTA starts construction, today, of a Metrolink depot and child care center to serve commuters in Chatsworth and surrounding communities. Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Bernson will lead local officials in a 3 p.m. groundbreaking ceremony at the site, located adjacent to the existing Metrolink platform along Ventura County line tracks between Devonshire and Lassen streets.

The 12,000 square foot building, scheduled for completion in October, will incorporate the train depot, a child care center and playground, a transportation memorabilia hall, retail and leasable office space. The station also will serve Amtrak trains and will become a transit center for MTA and LADOT buses.

"Our community has waited a long time for this groundbreaking," said Bernson, a Metrolink Board member and an alternate member of the MTA Board. "This is the beginning of a true community center."

Bernson headed the effort to purchase the site for use as a Metrolink and Amtrak station and was instrumental in the development of a master plan for expansion of the site as a transit center.

"This development is important to the community for several reasons," said Supervisor Mike Antonovich, MTA Board chairman. "It will be a multi-modal transit center providing a variety of transit options, but it also will be a focal point for important community activities."

(MORE)

CHATSWORTH GROUNDBREAKING

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"The MTA's goal is to encourage the use of Metrolink trains and MTA buses by making public transit convenient for commuters," said Franklin E. White, MTA chief executive officer. "By providing such amenities as a child care center and commercial space, we can create additional strong options to solo driving."

"The Montclair Metrolink station in San Bernardino County opened the region's first successful child care center in September, 1994," said Richard Stanger, Metrolink executive director. "Once completed, the Chatsworth location will bring a second child care center to the Metrolink regional system, with other station locations under construction in the San Fernando Valley."

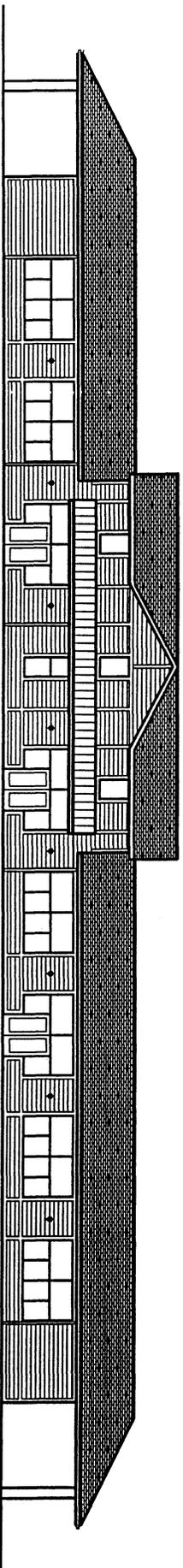
Some 270 daily Metrolink commuters currently use the temporary station platform, but patronage at the station is expected to grow with the rerouting of MTA bus lines to serve the station. Two routes, Lines 158 and 243, presently serve the station and Lines 167, 168 and 645 are scheduled to be added this winter. Six Amtrak trains and four Amtrak buses also stop at the station each day.

The 5,500 square foot child care center and adjacent 7,200 square foot playground, will accommodate up to 90 children from infants to 5 years old. The center will be open to the public, although preference will be given to the children of Metrolink, bus and rideshare commuters.

Construction of the new \$1.779 million facility is jointly funded by the MTA, the City of Los Angeles and the state. The MTA is contributing \$929,000 in grant funding, the City \$600,000 and the state \$250,000.

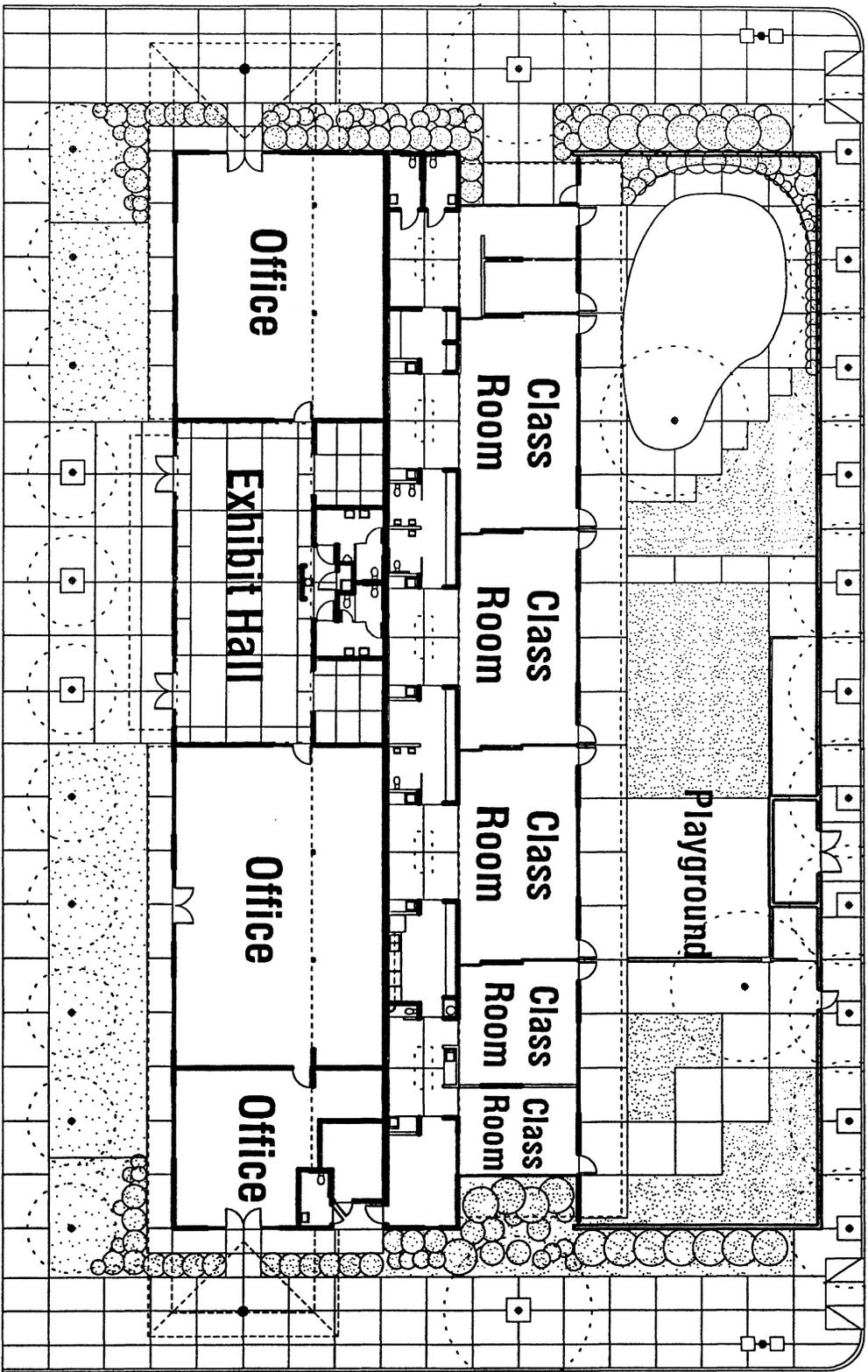
The MTA's Facilities Engineering Department is managing construction of the new building, which was designed by AIJK Architects of Santa Monica to incorporate many of the features of California's historic railway stations. Ko-Am Company, Inc., of Los Angeles will construct the facility.

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**CHATSWORTH METROLINK STATION DEPOT
& CHILD CARE CENTER**





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