



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA RESOLVES ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE TO SUBWAY TUNNELING IN HOLLYWOOD HILLS

The MTA Board of Directors and two environmental groups, Rescue Our Canyons and Friends of Runyon Canyon, today reached an agreement on measures that will protect Runyon Canyon Park and private property during the Hollywood Hills subway tunneling.

The agreement is based on mitigation measures proposed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and adopted by the MTA Board in January.

"The parties agree that these mitigation measures will serve as the basis for a consent decree," said Supervisor Yaroslavsky. "Today's agreement is a major breakthrough in our efforts to sweep aside the legal impediments to completing our subway system as safely and expeditiously as possible. This decree will ensure that private properties and public lands will be fully protected as Red Line construction proceeds through this sensitive area."

The consent decree makes a finding that compliance with the decree along with the prior MTA environmental documentation constitutes sufficient information to satisfy state and federal environmental requirements.

The mitigation measures contained in Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion adopted in January, which will now be incorporated into the decree, principally restrict the use of explosives during construction and the amount of dewatering under Runyon Canyon. The motion also mandates a substantial reduction in the use of explosives in the tunnel construction under Runyon Canyon and a complete elimination of blasting in the tunnels under the remainder of the Hollywood Hills.

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