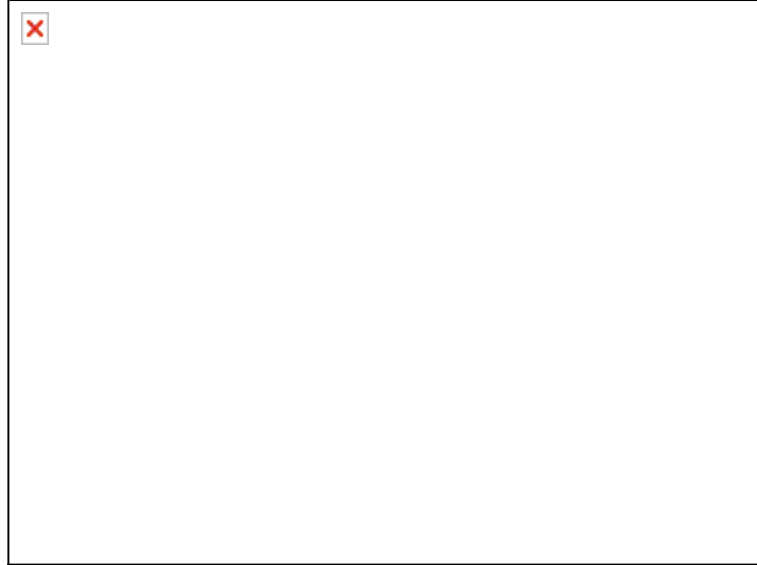


## Let There be Light



### Escalator Illumination being Upgraded at Segment 1 Metro Red Line Stations

(Jan. 28) Fifteen of the 42 escalators in the Segment 1 Metro Red Line stations have been upgraded with bright, new fluorescent lighting. The new lights meet state safety codes that require illumination for escalator steps.

Escalators in the oldest section of the subway had been without lighting since 1998 when defective neon lights were shut off, says Don Ott, director, Facilities Maintenance. The upgrade project, which began last November and is expected to last through May, affects stations from Union Station to Westlake/MacArthur Park.

#### Neon lights a hazard

Not only were the neon lights a fire hazard, says Hussein Farah, manager, Facilities Maintenance, they provided less than half the 5 "foot-candles" of lighting required by code. The new fluorescent bulbs provide as much as 15 foot-candles of light.

Each escalator is taken out of service for about a week and a half for the lighting upgrade, says Farah. While it is out of service, the maintenance contractor also is replacing electrical equipment and installing automatic lubricators that provide continuous oiling of escalator drive chains.

Metro Red Line escalators at stations between Westlake/MacArthur Park and Wilshire/Western and at stations on the Vermont/Hollywood line are not included in the upgrade project. Those units have code-approved incandescent lighting.

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