

Mountain Water Levels Recovering Following Subway Tunnel Construction

(Feb. 25) Ground water levels in the Runyon Canyon area of the Santa Monica Mountains are recovering from Metro Red Line tunneling and should be back to normal in five or six years, or sooner, Dr. Dan Eisenstein of the MTA's Tunnel Advisory Panel told the Board, Thursday.

The possible loss of ground water and the amount of blasting originally planned during construction of the mountain tunnels were the subject of a consent decree agreement between the MTA and residents in the Runyon Canyon area.

Blasting drew no complaints

"Blasting was no problem," Eisenstein said. "It was minimized and...did not concern anybody." In fact, blasting was eliminated along some 60 percent of the tunnel's three-mile length. He said not a single complaint was received from nearby residents.

Construction crews initially were able to reduce the outflow of ground water to about 400 gallons per minute by grouting rock fissures and installing an impermeable tunnel liner, Eisenstein reported. Additional grouting further decreased the outflow to only 120 gallons per minute, "way less than the consent decree requires."

The water table in the Runyon Canyon area already has returned to near its historic lower range, although it is still 40 to 50 feet below pre-construction levels. Based on average rainfall in Los Angeles, experts expect the water table to be back at normal levels in five to six years, if not sooner, Eisenstein said.

[Back to MTA Report](#)