

MTA ACTIVATES STRIKE CONTINGENCY PLAN

- **Negotiators Working to Avert Walkout**

GOVERNOR ISSUES STATEMENT

Governor Gray Davis, in a statement issued Thursday afternoon, urged the MTA and union negotiators "in the strongest possible terms" to continue bargaining talks. Noting that he had dispatched state mediators to Los Angeles, Davis said he is "ready to assist the parties in a negotiated solution.

"This is a local dispute and must be resolved locally," the governor said, "however the Los Angeles economy impacts every Californian and a strike hurts the entire state."

(Sept. 14) The MTA activated its Strike Contingency Plan as of noon, today. With barely 12 hours to go before a possible work stoppage, employees with strike contingency duty were directed to report to their strike work assignments, some of which begin as early as 11 p.m., Thursday.

In hopes of preventing a work stoppage, the MTA gave a comprehensive contract proposal Wednesday evening to the ATU – a meeting is scheduled Sept. 19. Thursday morning, the MTA exchanged contract proposals with the UTU. Agency negotiators also were in talks with TCU leaders Thursday afternoon.

STRIKE EMERGENCY HOTLINE
213-680-1531

Wednesday afternoon, a group of nine MTA Board members led by Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Mayor Richard Riordan urged the unions to continue bargaining talks.

Unless there is a breakthrough in negotiations, a strike by union employees is likely to occur at 12:01 a.m., Friday, Sept. 15. In the event of a work stoppage, UTU leaders have instructed bus operators to complete their runs after the strike deadline and avoid stranding passengers.

The MTA Strike Emergency Hotline will be updated as more information becomes available.

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