

## San Gabriel Valley Sector Also Due July 1

- **Decision Will Trigger Other Moves**

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Jan. 22, 2002) With growing confidence in the progress made toward opening the San Fernando Valley Service Sector, July 1, Deputy CEO John Catoe has set a process in motion to launch the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector on the same date.

That decision has triggered a series of activities that will have significant impact on Transit Operations. That includes the hiring of two sector general managers, the location of temporary space for the San Gabriel Valley sector administrative offices and the construction of a new sector office.

It's a big task, says Catoe, and one he has had second thoughts about, but he believes it can be accomplished on time.

"I really have confidence in the people who are doing the work..." to plan the transition to service sectors, he says. "For the operators, the mechanics and service attendants, the way they do their jobs on July 1 will be the same way they did them on June 30."

Catoe plans to hold an all-staff meeting at Headquarters and at divisions 3 and 9 in February to discuss progress on implementing the service sector concept.

### **Search for office space**

The search for office space for the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector general manager and staff is underway. Until permanent quarters are available, the service sector staff may be housed in existing MTA facilities.

To date, Catoe has interviewed eight of some 15 candidates who have applied for the five sector general manager positions. The MTA will continue to accept applications until all five positions are filled..

"We're getting some excellent candidates from the private sector, other transit organizations and from within the agency," says Cynthia Gibson, Catoe's staff director and head of the Service Sector Task Force. "It's going to be a hard choice for him to make."

In an interview with *MTA Report*, Catoe acknowledged that some employees are skeptical that such a shift in the MTA's service philosophy as the service sector concept represents can be made under the July 1 timeline.

"Sometimes, when you make changes in organizations and once you begin the process of change," he said, "it's better to just get it over with. I'm confident we're not going to get ourselves in a situation where we negatively impact services."

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