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## HAZMAT Crews Removing Contaminated Soils on Metro Orange Line

(Feb. 4, 2004) HAZMAT crews are working to clean up 20 spots along the 14-mile Metro Orange Line route that lab tests showed had been contaminated with arsenic and lead after nearly a century of railroad operation.

The first indication of the contamination came two weeks ago when excavation work was halted at two sites. Since then, 18 additional sites have been found where arsenic and lead levels exceeded state standards.

The crews are excavating the contaminated soil to a depth where arsenic and lead concentrations are below standards set by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which has been monitoring the testing and cleanup work.

Air monitoring by DTSC has shown that the contaminants pose no health risks to the public.

### Hauling away soils

The excavated soils will be hauled off to an appropriate landfill. The cleanup work should be completed by this weekend or early next week, according to Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe.

Remaining soils will either be paved over or landscaped. That should prevent the public from being exposed to the contaminated soils, says Environmental Specialist Chris Liban.

The remediation work is not expected to delay the 2005 completion of the dedicated busway, which will run between the North Hollywood Metro Rail station and Warner Center. The \$330 million construction project funds include \$10 million for such contingencies.