

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [CEO Hotline](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

► [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

► [Org Chart](#) (pdf)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

Pupils 'Make History' in the Mud of Campo de Cahuenga

by ERIC RAPP

(Feb 24, 2004) A group of fourth graders from Lankershim Elementary School can always look back on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2004 and say, "That was the day I helped build something important."

Their help came in the form of genuine adobe bricks being made to build a reconstruction of Campo de Cahuenga, the historical building where the Treaty of Hidalgo was signed in February 1848, ceding much of what is currently the Southwestern United States from Mexico.

The site, located at the Universal City Metro Red Line station, is being reconstructed as a partnership between MTA and the Los Angeles City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Significant archaeological work, undertaken during construction of the Metro Red Line station, discovered not only the foundation of the original eighteenth century building, but construction materials as well.

Tiles were 'seconds'

As architect Gil Sanchez explained to the pupils, the tiles from the original building were "seconds," tiles that were deemed not fit for use in the more important constructions of the day – the Spanish Missions that were built up and down California.

Some of the bricks had paw prints from dogs that had stepped on them while drying.

Proving that some things never change, on Thursday morning construction employees discovered that a dog and a bird had walked on some of the bricks they had laid out for drying the night before, leaving their marks on the mud for future archaeologists to discover.

After a brief talk about the history and importance of the building, the kids got down to the real work – taking the mixture of dirt, clay, sand and straw that makes up adobe and putting it into forms to be dried



Top: LA City Councilman Tom LaBonge, an MTA Board member, dumps wet mud into forms to make adobe bricks.

Bottom: The pupils initial souvenir bricks that will be presented to them after they've dried in the sun.

into bricks.

Pupils made bricks

Each pupil also got to make a small brick and put his or her initials into it, which they will get to keep once the bricks are dried.

MTA Board member Tom LaBonge, A Los Angeles City councilman whose district contains the Campo de Cahuenga site, also stopped by to help make a few bricks.

"Some day, you'll go by this building, and you can tell your kids and grandkids that you helped to build it," he told the pupils. He encouraged the children to learn more about California's history and architecture.

Even though the trip was for fun and education, the children can always look at the new Campo de Cahuenga with the satisfaction of a job well done.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)