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## MTA to be Featured in Public TV Program on Workers' Comp

By KIM SIM

(March 24, 2004) MTA's efforts to reduce Workers' Compensation costs will be featured in a public television hour-long news magazine program, Thursday, March 25.

Check it out: [Click here](#) or go to [californiaconnected.org](http://californiaconnected.org)

The episode of "California Connected" will be aired locally on KCET, Channel 28, at 10 p.m. The program will examine the rising cost of Workers' Compensation premiums in California.

Among the issues to be covered in the program are how to fix the system, the costs of Workers' Compensation for California employers, and employer and employee perspectives.

The show will take a look at MTA's self-insured and self-administered Workers' Compensation claims program as a potential cost-reducing approach.

Self-insured employers provide their own coverage for Workers' Compensation liabilities instead of paying premiums to a third-party company to handle claims.

### 'More cost-effective'

"It's definitely more cost-effective because nobody cares more about your own money than you do," says Pamela Murano, manager of Risk Management's Special Investigations Unit. "We're much more knowledgeable about our employees and their work requirements and what they do."

Two years ago, MTA spent \$60 million on Workers' Compensation. Last year, the agency spent \$54 million, Murano says.

She attributes that decrease to several factors — MTA's Safety's 1st program, more efficient handling of claims and more aggressive investigation of Workers' Compensation fraud.

Members of the "California Connected" team filmed in February and interviewed Murano, Chief Financial Officer Richard Brumbaugh, senior investigator Roy Romero of the Special Investigations Unit and Deputy Executive Officer of Corporate Safety Gary Spivack.

"California Connected" is a weekly program that airs on local PBS stations throughout the state.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: To report Workers' Compensation fraud, call 213-922-2800.