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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CRAIGG



Helping plan the new Division 6 are, from left, Benjamin Hi, Derald Wright, Bruce Buck, Miguel Estrada, Jermani Martin, Naren Desai, George Lau, and standing far right, Jesse Guerra and Darryl Henderson.

Venice Division 6 Employees Help Plan New Division

By ELIZABETH A. CRAIGG

(Aug. 24, 2004) Venice Division 6 employees are participating in the planning of a new operating division proposed for construction in West Los Angeles.

The new division, which would be located on Jefferson Boulevard between National Boulevard and Rodeo Road, would accommodate up to 175 40-foot buses on a 4.66-acre site. The division also will be configured to accommodate articulated buses.

The new division, which would be about 50 percent larger than the 3.13-acre Venice location, would be Metro's first 100 percent CNG operating division. The current Division 6 has no CNG capability.

Project Manager Tim Lindholm lists a few reasons why the Venice location is relocating. "It's old, too small to hold an adequate number of buses, there is no CNG fueling facility, and it's not very accessible."

The division planning team consists of three maintenance and three transportation managers, Metro engineers and architects, the developer and their architect.

The managers discuss ideas with the Division 6 employees, receive input and report to the team of designers with the employees' comments.

'Making the job easier'

"Talking with the crew about the design of the new division has also helped with making the job easier, so that the new structure complies with what they are doing," says Assistant Maintenance Manager Bruce Buck.

Buck posted the plans at the division so employees could offer their

suggestions. "Virtually every part of the design came from the employees," he says.

"In designing and building a brand new and state-of-the-art facility for the first time in over 20 years, we really felt that the employees who actually work there would offer the most valuable insights into how it should be designed," says Lindholm. "We're trying to incorporate the vast amount of expertise available from our staff at the divisions into the design and construction of this project."

With the design project 30 percent completed, Lindholm expects the Environmental Impact Report to be presented to the Board of Directors in early 2005.

"Everyone is excited about a new facility because everyone has had a lot of input into building a better facility," says Buck.

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