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State Fines Metro Contractor for Violating Prevailing Wage Laws

- Inspector General’s investigation caught the violation

(Sept. 27, 2005) A construction company hired to upgrade air conditioning systems at Metro operating divisions 7, 9 and 18 has been fined some \$7,100 for violating state wage laws.

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General determined that HNK Construction of Los Angeles failed to pay the area’s prevailing wage, as required by state law, to a laborer and an electrician for work performed from mid-2004 to early 2005.

The laborer was owed \$25,265, but was paid only \$6,363 for 652 straight work hours and 96 overtime hours. The electrician was owed \$12,702, but was paid only \$4,156 for 260 straight work hours and 15 overtime hours.

The workers were paid at rates substantially less than those reported to Metro on certified payroll records, according to Deputy Inspector General Mimi Strauss.

Acting on the OIG’s investigation, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the state Department of Labor Relations ordered HNK to pay a total fine of \$7,145.98, including \$320.98 that went into a workers’ training fund.