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Renderings of the new San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Bus Operations building in El Monte.



SGV Sector to Break Ground on New Bus Operations Building

- Building also to house sector's administrative offices

By DAVE HERSHENSON

(Feb. 2, 2006) The San Gabriel Valley Service Sector will have a ceremonial groundbreaking at 12:30 p.m., Friday, for construction of a new state-of-the-art Bus Operations building in El Monte.

The new three-story, 45,515 square foot steel frame building will be built on Caltrans property northwest of the current Division 9 Bus Operations building and adjacent to the El Monte Transit Center.

In addition to serving as the main building for bus operators and other employees at Division 9, the \$11.8 million structure will also be the new home of the San Gabriel Valley sector administrative office. It will include a community room for the sector's Governance Council meetings, public hearings, and other Metro meetings.

"This will be the first new Bus Operations building Metro has constructed in nearly 20 years, and will replace the current building that was built in the 1970's," said General Manager Jack Gabig. "Once completed, Metro and the City of El Monte will have a beautiful new building of which we can all be proud."

The building exterior will consist of an aluminum and glass wall panel system with a structural glass curtain wall system in the lobby. The building will incorporate recycled materials, energy efficiency,

daylighting, and air quality controls.

As a Green Building with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design designation, it's design objectives include protecting occupant health, improving employee productivity, and using energy, water and other resources more efficiently.

'Building will be a model'

"The building we have designed is state-of-the-art, and since its conception we have designed the building with our operators' needs and requirements in mind," said Tim Lindholm, Facilities-Operations project manager. "From computer and Internet access to new furniture to the instruction facilities and meeting and public spaces, this building will be a model of how Metro transportation and administration buildings should be designed and built in the future."

The new Bus Operations building will not only replace outdated and antiquated facilities, but will allow for a future increase in the bus operating fleet, sector personnel, and expanded operation of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau San Gabriel Valley field office.

W.E. O'Neill Constructors was awarded the design/build contract last July. The 13-month project, which actually began Jan. 30 with installation of temporary facilities and construction fencing, is to be completed in early spring 2007.

Once the new building is fully operational, the old transportation building will be knocked down, Lindholm said. The area will be repaved and restriped for bus parking, roughly doubling the size of Division 9's current bus parking area.

Under a memorandum of understanding, Metro was allowed to construct the building on Caltrans property but, in return, must replace displaced parking should usage of the El Monte Transit Center increase beyond a certain threshold.

Although unlikely, according to Lindholm, in that event, Metro could easily replace the parking on Metro-owned land currently occupied by the service sector's office building.