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## Former Board Member Mas Fukai Died Sunday in Gardena

- Served on both SCRTD and LACMTA Boards



Masani "Mas" Fukai  
1927 - 2006

(March 7, 2006) Masani "Mas" Fukai, a former member of the SCRTD and Metro Boards of Directors, died Sunday in his hometown of Gardena following a lengthy illness.

Funeral services will be private, but a public viewing is scheduled from noon until 1:30 p.m., Friday, at the Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 West 158th St., Gardena.

Fukai, 79, served as a Gardena city councilman for more than 28 years, beginning in 1974, and is credited with helping shape the city's political and physical landscape through his participation in a number of civic organizations.

He was named chief of staff in 1975 by the late LA County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who originally appointed him as his alternate on the SCRTD Board in July 1990.

Supervisor Yvonne Burke reappointed Fukai as her alternate on the SCRTD Board in February 1993, and he continued to serve on that Board and then on the LACMTA Board until Dec. 31, 1995.

Born in Gardena on Jan. 2, 1927, he attended local schools and worked on the family farm until World War II, when the family was relocated to an internment camp in Gila, Ariz. Fukai joined the Army and advanced to the rank of corporal.

After the Army, he ran an auto repair shop for 13 years and then operated an insurance business before being named to Hahn's staff.

Fukai is survived by his wife, Yuri; a son, Rick; and a daughter, Janice.