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New 424 Area Code Overlay to Affect Metro Divisions

- Overlay takes effect, July 26, for Westside, South Bay

(March 9, 2006) Beginning July 26, an “area code overlay” taking effect in the 310 dialing area will require employees at five Metro operating divisions and the South Bay Service Sector offices to use a new procedure to make a phone call.

The new 424 area code will be added to the 310 dialing area, which stretches from west of Malibu along the coast down to San Pedro. The overlay will affect Santa Monica, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, Torrance and Santa Catalina Island and other Westside and South Bay communities.

Once the overlay takes effect in July, employees at divisions 6, 7, 11, 18 and 22, along with the South Bay sector offices, will be required to dial 1, the area code and a seven-digit number.

Employees will still be able to make calls on Metro’s private network by dialing only five digits. The overlay will not require the offices to change their existing area code.

Phone company officials encourage employees at the affected divisions and offices to begin using the new “1 plus 10” dialing procedure immediately in order to get used to the new dialing pattern. After July 26, calls without the full “1 plus 10” numbers will not be completed.

In addition, automatic dialing equipment programmed with seven-digit numbers must be reprogrammed to use the new dialing procedure. This includes FAX machines, alarm and security systems, gates and speed dialers, call-forwarding settings and similar functions.

No changes will be required to phone services outside the 310 area code.