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**BRU Asks 9th Circuit Court to Overturn Consent Decree Rulings**

- Judge Hatter’s decisions had allowed Consent Decree to expire

(Dec. 27, 2006) The Bus Riders Union is asking the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals to overturn two District Court rulings that effectively released Metro from the federal Consent Decree.

In papers dated Dec. 19, the BRU appeals District Court Judge Terry Hatter’s Oct. 24 decision denying a motion to extend the Consent Decree and a companion motion for civil contempt sanctions against the agency.

The BRU also is appealing Hatter’s Nov. 21 order in which he refused to reconsider his decision to allow the 10-year-old Consent Decree to expire on schedule. The judge retained jurisdiction until Nov. 30, 2010 over Metro’s New Service Plan, which involves implementation of additional Metro Rapid lines.

In his October decision, Hatter wrote that Metro “has substantially complied with the Consent Decree while maintaining fares at reasonable levels.”

“As a result of the Consent Decree and the efforts of all parties,” Hatter concluded, “the quality of life has improved for Los Angeles’ public transit dependent poor population....”

