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New Service Bay Protects Division 4 Mechanics, Vehicles From Elements

By ELIZABETH LEIDER

(March 7, 2007) A repair building handed over to Metro's Non-Revenue Division 4 in Downey, last month, will protect mechanics and heavy-duty machinery from the elements.

Working on vehicles in rain, fog or other damp conditions creates "slip and fall dangers and can short out electronic systems in the heavy duty equipment," said Michael Stange, supervisor of Equipment Maintenance. "Working on hot engines in the sun also creates an intolerable environment for the workers."

After almost a year of construction, the \$1.2-million covered service bay is fully operational.

At 80 feet long by 48 feet deep, with a peak height of 28 feet, 11 inches, the service bay can house diesel trucks, large equipment tow trucks, bucket trucks, tractor trailers and even the Metro Experience mobile theater, which calls Division 4 home.

The covered service area has two bays for working on larger vehicles, including Metro's 11 giant tow trucks which weigh 31,500 pounds each, but the repair building can also house four smaller vehicles simultaneously.

According to Harold Torres, assistant manager of Equipment Maintenance, the new covered service bay was built for Division 4 because of the pending closure of Metro's South Park repair facility, where heavy repair and maintenance is currently done.

The new bay will compensate for the "displacement of South Park workers and vehicles," Stange explained.

In addition to the covered service bay, a car wash was built, and a Metro-owned lot adjacent to Division 4 was paved for the parking and



Harold Torres, assistant manager of Equipment Maintenance at Division 4, shows off his new baby, a \$1.2 million covered service bay. Torres stands in the bay the day before his staff began moving equipment into the building. Photo by Ned Racine.

storage of additional non-revenue vehicles.

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