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Photos by Gary Leonard

Carina Ricco Asks Concert Audience to 'Go Green. Go Metro.'

- Earth Day concert draws audience to Union Station's South Patio

By NED RACINE, Editor

(April 22, 2008) Mother Nature provided a perfect setting of cloudless sky and pleasant breeze as singer/songwriter Carina Ricco offered a lunch-time concert to celebrate Earth Day's 38th anniversary.

Ricco, filling in for Canon, whose appearance was cancelled because of a band member's illness, sang two songs whose title she thought appropriate for Earth Day; Planet Azul (Blue Planet) and Aire (Air).

Metro Board Chair and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor welcomed the audience and introduced Ricco. O'Connor asked how many of the audience had taken public transit, and she received a sea of raised hands in response.

Under gently swaying palm trees, O'Connor



Singer/songwriter Carina Ricco in concert at Union Station.

introduced Mother Earth, who looked remarkably similar to Anna Mercaldi, assistant public communications officer. "There's a lot we have to do to make sure we take of Mother Earth," O'Connor said. "She is in a little bit of trouble right now."

O'Connor also reminded the audience on Union Station's South Patio that public transportation slashes the United States' consumption of gasoline by four billion gallons annually.

Between songs, Ricco, a mother of two, asked her audience to make sure a healthy earth "is here for our kids and the future." Ricco sang in Spanish and spoke to the audience in English.

After playing nine songs, Ricco signed off with "Go green. Go Metro."

Ricco's band included Fran Iturbe (guitar), Karl D'Amico (guitar), Fernando Torreblanca (drums) and Alberto Albis (bass).

Metro distributed "I ride for a greener LA" tee shirts, Bike to Work Day tote bags and a variety of Metro maps. The Metropolitan Water District offered information on saving water and packets of California poppy seeds, a plant adapted to Southern California's Mediterranean climate and requiring little water to survive.