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These columns are spaced 12 feet apart and will serve as the major support of a sound wall 17-feet tall and 715-feet long. The wall is designed to reflect sound back toward the yard, reducing noise for West Hollywood Division 7 neighbors. *Photos by Jimmy Stroup*

West Hollywood Division 7 Wall Lessens Noise for Neighbors

By JIMMY STROUP

(June 3, 2008) Metro has begun a new sound wall along the eastern edge of the West Hollywood Division 7 yard to help contain the amount of noise the division creates.

The new wall will be 17 feet tall, replacing a 12-foot-high wall. Neighbors to the east complained that the current wall – though built to absorb sound – simply isn't getting the job done.

"This wall was designed to be reflective," said on-site Assistant Project Manager Raul Pedroza. "Any sound made in the yard will be reflected back into the yard."

The wall is made up of grooved concrete pillars spaced 12 feet apart. Sound panels slide into the grooves, creating a 715-foot-long surface to reflect sound.

Facilities Operations Senior Engineer Bill Wei designed the wall for both simplicity and function. Pedroza said the design calls for spot-on accuracy from the contracted construction



A foreman ensures the columns are being installed correctly by measuring with a laser-guided tool. To the right, the massive drill hangs ready to bore the next hole for the next column. Each column is buried 20 feet into the ground to support the 17-foot-high wall.

company, Peterson Chase.

"It's got to be right on – plum," Pedroza said. "You'd be surprised. When you're placing the columns 20 feet down, if you're off by just a little bit it makes a big difference. The whole thing will be crooked if it's not just right."

The columns are 37 feet long: 20 feet will be underground and encased in concrete.

The wall is scheduled to be built in four phases. Each phase will demolish and rebuild roughly 200 feet of wall. Construction started on March 24 and is due for completion near the end of July.

"To deal with the noise issues at Division 7, the Board approved a 10-point plan to help with the issue," said Tim Lindholm, facilities operations director of Capital Projects. "We have done nine other things to mitigate the problem over the years, and the last thing was to build this wall."

"Based on noise studies, the wall should reduce the noise to acceptable levels. We designed it in compliance with the results of the noise studies – and in conjunction with the neighborhood – so we hope it will help keep the noise down for the residential neighbors," he said.

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