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Presentations: CEO Roger Snoble and Board Chairman Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa pay tribute to achievements and triumphs at the Board meeting October 23. Director Yvonne Burke retires, Director Bonnie Lowenthal departs, and the Metro San Gabriel Valley 'green' building goes gold. *Text and photos by Gayle Anderson*

[Director Yvonne Burke](#) [Director Bonnie Lowenthal](#) [Metro San Gabriel Valley](#)



Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke

- Board of Directors February 1, 1993 | December 1, 2008
- Board Chair July 1, 1999 | June 30, 2001

As a member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board for 15 years, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was instrumental in the advancement of the Metro System and ushered in a new era of public transportation in the Southern California region. Supervisor Burke has served on the Board and its committees since a merger created the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in 1993.

At the helm from 1999 to 2001, Supervisor Burke served as Board Chair during crucial developments and advancements. Her accomplishments as the Chair and as a member of the Board of Directors remain as milestones by which Metro is measured in the annals of public transportation.

As Board Chair, Supervisor Burke managed the pressing issues of the federally-imposed Consent Decree.

The efforts and support of Supervisor Burke advanced the procurement of the first fleet of CNG buses, making Metro the 'Largest Clean Air Fleet in the Nation' and a world leader in pioneering the use of clean-burning fuels for the public transit industry.

From a fact finding mission to Curitiba, Brazil, in 1999 to the launching of Metro Rapid in the year 2000, Supervisor Burke was a prime mover in the development of the Rapid Bus concept in Los Angeles. Shepherding the extension of the Metro Red Line to North Hollywood, Supervisor Burke joined city, state and federal officials in the opening of the North Hollywood segment, marked by a record 500,000 boardings over two days of celebration.

A champion of community, Supervisor Burke steadfastly pursued the development of the Exposition Light Rail Line. A moving force since its inception and funding in 2005, Supervisor Burke served on the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board of Directors. When the Expo Line opens in 2010, it will join the Metro Rail/Fixed Guideway network of 87.6 miles of

route service in Los Angeles County. The Expo Line will be the first Metro Rail line to connect Downtown Los Angeles with the dynamic Westside at Culver City.

The dedication of Supervisor Burke matches her achievements in public transportation and stands as the hallmark of a distinguished career that spans all branches of state and local government and more than four decades of public service.



Long Beach Vice-Mayor and Councilwoman Bonnie Lowenthal joined the Board of Directors in May 2005. Now departing the board to fulfill new professional and civic responsibilities, Director Lowenthal was recognized as a proponent of public transit who helped launched the Metro Orange Line, championed alternative fuel for use in public transit, debuted a new Metro Express Line 577X, introduced the Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Tow Service, organized efforts to promote crime deterrence and safety on the Metro system, and demonstrated a strong commitment to the disabled community among other notable accomplishments.



Metro San Gabriel Valley Gold

Although the Metro San Gabriel Valley building was constructed to achieve a "silver" rating by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the 'green' team surpassed expectations. Instead of the 'silver' rating, the building is taking home the LEED 'gold.' Metro CEO Roger Snoble and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa collected the trophies at the board meeting Oct. 23: A framed certificate proclaiming the rating from the U.S. Green Building Council and a glass medallion inscribed with the architectural and environmental achievement.



Members of the 'green' team, a multidisciplinary group from Facilities, Contracts, Construction and the Metro San Gabriel Valley service sector, display the medallion before it goes on permanent exhibition at the SGV building. From left, Rudy Rey, Andi Wang, Mike Holguin, contractor Andrew Bart of W.E. O'Neill Construction, team leader Tim Lindholm, DEO Denise Longley (Contracts and Administration), Tom Lee, Metro SGV GM Jack Gabig, Paula Faust and John Jaramillo. Not pictured: Carlos Fabro.
