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CEO Roger Snoble, joins transit officials for the unveiling of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) plaque and medallion at Metro's new "green" building that houses Metro San Gabriel Valley offices adjacent to the El Monte Transit Center. Pictured, from left, Alex Gonzalez, City of Covina; CEO Snoble, Metro Board Members Pam O'Connor and John Fasana, Monterey Park Councilwoman Sharon Martinez and Metro Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers. *Photo: Ralph Cangialosi.*

## It's official now: Metro's first 'green' transit facility building is gold.

(Nov. 26, 2008) The writing is on the wall at the Metro San Gabriel Valley transit facility. The certification engraved upon the brass plaque and gleaming glass medallion signifies gold certification rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. The impressive markers are the brightest and newest gem in Metro's crown of sustainable development.

Transit officials and civic leaders gathered Nov. 24 at the site to celebrate the installation of the glass medallion and brass plaque on an interior wall of the entrance to the Metro San Gabriel Valley transit facility adjacent to the El Monte Transit Center.

Metro was awarded the gold certification rating by the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED certification scoring system is based on a set of required prerequisites and a variety of credits in six major categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design process.

Metro's eco-friendly three-story, 45,515 square-foot steel-frame transportation building was built to meet the LEED standards. The design objectives include protecting occupant health, improving employee productivity, and using energy, water and other resources more efficiently. "Our country is facing very serious challenges including climate change, energy independence and economic recession," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "It is incumbent upon Metro to help lead the way to live sustainably."

Metro's green building surpasses the State of California's strict standards for reducing energy use by 25 percent and water consumption by 50 percent. The office consumes 33 percent less electricity than a conventional structure, saving Metro more than \$75,000 in utility costs

annually.

The \$13 million facility houses the Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector offices and transportation offices, including a field office for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau. Construction of the building was completed in late 2007. Contractor for the project was E. O'Neil of Orange County. -- *from staff reports*