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**First Steps: Test results from exploratory drilling in West Los Angeles will determine below-ground soil conditions for subway planning**

(August 25, 2009) Joined by local elected officials from Los Angeles County and nearby cities, Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced the completion of exploratory drilling in West Los Angeles at a news conference held in Westwood Aug. 20.

The exploratory drillings are a key part of the planning and environmental process for the proposed Westside Subway Extension, a regionally beneficial Measure R transportation project.

Metro has conducted soil samples at approximately 70 Westside locations over the last two and a half months and has sent those samples to labs for analysis. The testing will assess below ground soil conditions to allow planning for the subway route and the use of drilling and construction techniques/technology.

The testing is required to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) now in progress. The Draft EIS/EIR is evaluating all aspects of the proposed subway extension including identifying benefits and impacts once it is in operation, potential construction impacts, and identifying potential mitigations.

— from Metro News Release

