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Metro Orange Line Extension team meets with appreciative neighbor Jan McLeod at the recently completed 8-foot-high privacy fence that separates the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park from the construction of the Lassen Street Bridge. Note how the fence jogs to keep from disturbing the Torrey Pine tree in the background. From left, Sr. Safety Specialist Frederick Smith, Construction Inspector Sal Hernandez, Sr. Construction Manager Scott McConnell, Chatsworth Mobile Home Park Manager Jan McLeod, construction consultants Steve Kramer and Rod Holtman, Communications Assistant Perla Berry. *Photo by Terri Wiggam.*

## With construction about to start for Lassen Street Bridge, privacy fence makes for good neighbors along the Orange Line extension

(June 2, 2010) For the most part, residents and businesses adjacent to the construction site of the Metro Orange Line Extension eagerly anticipate the future mass transit opportunities the transitway will bring, said Sr. Community Relations Officer Olga Lopez. However, as visions of work crews wielding heavy machinery equipment begin to invade the scenario, no one is exactly thrilled with the construction itself.

"Mitigation can significantly soften the visual and even audible impacts of nearby construction," said Lopez. A case in point is the new 8-foot-high privacy fence that separates the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park from the construction of the Lassen Street Bridge.

Everybody is happy about it, particularly the residents of the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park, where the mitigation has actually become an improvement over the previous chain link fence as well as a starting point for landscaping within the park.

"It is so much better looking than the (original) chain link fence," said Park Manager Jan McLeod. "Residents appreciate the color, construction and the security the height gives them as they recall the years of transients and drug trafficking going on behind them," she said.

"I am thrilled because many have already been inspired to start landscaping their back yards; making wonderful private areas to sit out in and enjoy the summer months," she said in a "thank you" letter to staff.

The privacy fence was installed as mitigation to the visual impacts that would result from the Metro Orange Line Extension Project's nearby construction and operation, said Lopez.

"The fence is just over a half mile long and provides a privacy screen for 53 of the mobile home lots," said Sr. Construction Manager Scott McConnell. "And, what was important to everybody, was to jog the fence to save the mature Torrey Pine tree that runs along the property line."

GMX Construction, Inc., a local contractor based in Sherman Oaks, started clearing, demolishing and removing the existing chain link fence to make room for the new privacy fence at the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park in January. And, according to the terms of the EIR, the contractor completed the installation of the 8-foot tall, half-mile-long privacy fence and a new sprinkler system in May.

With the privacy fence now in place, Brutoco Engineering & Construction, Inc., can begin construction of the Lassen Street Bridge, said Lopez. "Residents at the Chatsworth Mobile Home Park understand that the installation of the fence will aid in mitigating construction impacts."



The fence was aligned to preserve the longtime resident Torrey Pine.



The Chatsworth Mobile Home residents were so pleased with the installation of the 8-foot-high privacy fence that Park Manager Jan McLeod sent a note of appreciation to the staff. Here are excerpts from her letter to Perla Berry dated May 5, 2010:

The fence Metro built for us is greatly appreciated by everyone throughout the Park...not just for those of us who have it on our spaces.

It is so much better looking than the chain link fence. Residents appreciate the color, construction and the security the height gives them as they recall the years of transients and drug trafficking going on behind them.

I am thrilled because many have already been inspired to start landscaping their back yards; making wonderful private areas to sit out in and enjoy the summer months. The overall common comment is that the noise has been dulled by the fence. Some are sad they have lost their views from windows where the fence had to be placed close to their homes but admit they will get used to it, besides they have the other mountains to look at from their living rooms.

Metro staff on the jobsite and their consultants have shown nothing but care and concern for our community throughout this whole project.

It is human nature for people to fight change and the next couple of years will be tough on our residents, however, if the same care and concern is shown us during this period we will all get the job done and be able to say the inconvenience and noise was worth it.

When the entire project is finished in the summer of 2012, the [Orange Line Extension](#) will extend the bus line four miles northward from Warner Center to its final destination between Devonshire and Lassen streets in Chatsworth. The line averages about 22,000 boardings each weekday now and is expected to reach 45,000 a day by 2030.

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[MORE:](#) Orange Line extension project profiled featuring Project Management DEO Hitesh Patel in news pages of Third District website at [zev.lacounty.gov](#). Profile is also republished [myMetro.net](#) with the permission of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Third District website.

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—from Gayle Anderson