



# NEWS

April 9, 1996

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## **MTA TEMPORARILY CEASES TUNNELING UNDER HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY; ROADWAY REMAINS OPEN TO PUBLIC AND SAFE FOR TRAVEL**

The contractor tunneling beneath the Hollywood Freeway in North Hollywood has temporarily halted work due to settlement that slightly exceeded the level permitted by Caltrans. Caltrans and MTA officials stressed that the freeway is safe and remains open to traffic.

"The MTA remains committed to continue to provide exceptional survey and mitigation actions - whatever it takes - to maintain the integrity of the Hollywood Freeway," said Joe Drew, MTA CEO. Drew noted that out of 200 survey points along the tunnel corridor, only three have exceeded the permitted level of 3.5 inches. Overall settlement averages 1.03 inches.

Drew reported that Caltrans has asked the MTA to have the tunneling contractor temporarily suspend operations near the Lankershim Boulevard overpass.

MTA and Caltrans have been closely monitoring the freeway surface, and have observed a very gradual settlement over an extended period of time. The settlement has occurred as the contractor doing the work, Traylor Brothers, has excavated two access shafts and mined two starter tunnels at its Universal City worksite.

Tunneling will resume when MTA's remediation plan is approved by Caltrans. MTA and Caltrans engineers are optimistic that the delay will be brief.

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MTA-077