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CTC ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, LOS ANGELES AND SOUTH GATE

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) today provided \$2.5 million for MTA sponsored or programmed transportation enhancements that will beautify a Los Angeles thoroughfare and park, add a greenbelt to a Valley rail line, and improve a bicycle trail along the Los Angeles River.

The largest grant, \$1.4 million, will be used to enhance the sidewalk and street areas between the three Metro Red Line stations at Vermont, Normandie, and Western Avenues along Wilshire Boulevard. The project, known as Wilshire Streetscape, will extend one block north and south of Wilshire on the cross streets.

"The Streetscape Project will be a nice complement to the opening of the Metro Red Line along Wilshire Boulevard next summer," said MTA Chair and L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich. "Street beautification is symbolic of how public transit can transform an area for the better."

Hollenbeck Park, in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, will get \$546,000 for a water purification system to be installed in Hollenbeck Lake. The 4.3 acre lake has been contaminated by runoff and debris from storm drains on the adjacent I-5 freeway. The treated lake water will aerate through two lighted fountains. Once the system is operational, the lake will be restocked with fish as part of the Urban Fishing Program.

A third project will plant over 3,000 low maintenance, drought-resistant trees along 12 miles of the Metrolink Santa Clarita Line right-of-way.

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The \$433,000 project includes funds to water the trees with reclaimed water for two and a half years to establish the trees. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps, a non-profit organization, will employ youth workers and volunteers to plant the trees, along with wildflowers and native grasses.

The final project in the CTC package will install bicycle ramps to the Los Angeles River bike path where it passes beneath the Long Beach Freeway in South Gate. The \$141,000 improvement will enhance safety by providing retaining walls and a more secure riding surface.

The Valley Greenway is an MTA project. The MTA requested funding for the Streetscape and lake purification on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, and the bike ramp for the County of Los Angeles.

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