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**REPUBLIC BANK CALIFORNIA N.A. JOINS MTA'S CONSTRUCTION
ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM**

Republic Bank California N.A. has joined the MTA's Construction Enhancement Loan Program (CELP), established to assist businesses and property owners while rail construction is underway.

Republic Bank California N.A., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Republic New York Corporation, is headquartered in Beverly Hills. It is the fifth financial institution to participate in the CELP, which established a \$25 million loan fund available for businesses to stabilize operations within rail station construction areas. The funds are accessible through the participating institutions.

The program includes small business loans in two categories -- under \$50,000, and from \$50,000 to \$300,000, and real estate secured loans of up to \$1 million to property owners. Loans are offered usually around the prime lending rate.

Since being started in 1993, CELP institutions have made loans of \$1.7 million to businesses along Metro Rail right-of-ways.

Other participating institutions are: East-West Federal Bank; and a consortium made up of Broadway Federal Savings, Family Savings Bank, and Founders National Bank of Los Angeles.

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