



NEWS

February 20, 1996

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA SPONSORS FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER WORKSHOP IN EAST L.A.

The MTA will sponsor a home ownership workshop Saturday, Feb. 24, 1996, from 9 a.m. to noon at the PUENTE Learning Center, located at 501 Boyle Avenue, in Boyle Heights.

This is the first of a series of workshops that will be held in East Los Angeles. Other workshops will also be held for residents of the East Los Angeles community that will have to relocate as a result of the Metro Rail construction. Future workshops will be held in the MTA's Relocation Site Office.

Hosts of the event are Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Congressman Xavier Becerra, Senator Richard Polanco, Assemblymember Louis Caldera, Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa, L.A. County Supervisor and MTA Board member Gloria Molina, L.A. City Councilman and MTA Board member Richard Alatorre, the community group *Union y Fuerza de la Comunidad*, the Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Red Line Review Advisory Committee-RAC.

Workshop attendees will learn about special loan programs offered by lending institutions and commercial banks; low down payment loans; conditions to qualify for loans and procedures to solve credit problems. Information about buying foreclosures and other low-priced homes also will be available.

Speakers include representatives from Fannie Mae, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, Community Development Commission of L.A. County, City of Los Angeles Housing Department and Home Loan Counseling Center. Representatives from commercial financial institutions will be available to answer questions.

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"The purpose of this workshop is to provide the community with the necessary information so that they can make the transition from renters to homeowners," said Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, who has taken the lead on this project.

"This workshop is part of our efforts to assist the communities located near the construction of the Metro Red Line Extension into East Los Angeles," said MTA interim Chief Executive Officer Joseph E. Drew. "We understand that construction will be disruptive to the lives of many people, but we will do everything possible to be a good neighbor."

"It is our responsibility to support and assist those in the community that are impacted by the Red Line construction," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "Purchasing a home is a tremendous step and this workshop will provide information that will be needed to help people relocate, particularly those who choose to be homeowners."

The workshop will be conducted in English and Spanish. For more information or directions the community should call (213) 922-9039 or (213) 922-2211 or visit the Metro Red Line field office located at 1634 Pleasant Avenue across the street from Mariachi Plaza, near First Street and Boyle Avenue.

The East Los Angeles Metro Red Line extension will span 6.8 miles from Union Station to Atlantic Boulevard. The project will be built in two phases.

The first four stations will be located at LittleTokyo/Arts District at Santa Fe Avenue and Third Street, Mariachi Plaza at First Street and Boyle Avenue, Cesar Chavez Avenue and Soto Street, and First Street and Lorena Street.

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