



NEWS

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STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE RESOLUTION OF THE ENVIROMENTAL CHALLENGE TO SUBWAY TUNNELING IN HOLLYWOOD HILLS

Today the MTA Board and two environmental groups, Rescue Our Canyons and Friends of Runyon Canyon, reached an agreement on the measures that will protect Runyon Canyon Park and private property during the Hollywood Hills subway tunneling.

The agreement is based on mitigation measures proposed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and adopted by the MTA Board in January. The parties agree that these mitigation measures will serve as the basis for a consent decree. The consent decree makes a finding that compliance with the decree, along with the prior MTA environmental documentation, constitutes sufficient information to satisfy state and federal environmental requirements.

The mitigation measures contained in Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion adopted in January, which will now be incorporated into the decree, principally restrict the use of explosives during construction and the amount of dewatering under Runyon Canyon. The motion mandates a substantial reduction in the use of explosives in the tunnel construction under Runyon Canyon and a complete elimination of blasting in the tunnels under the remainder of the Hollywood Hills. When explosives must be used, the motion requires the intensity to be greatly reduced and limits the times when blasting may be conducted. The motion also requires extensive grouting to prevent water leakage from seasonal surface springs and the monitoring of the effects of the tunneling on vegetation. In addition, the MTA's special insurance program will be expanded to provide coverage to all private property which might be subject to vibrations from the tunneling.

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An important element of the consent decree is that the parties will select a qualified tunneling expert to serve as a "monitor" to review information regarding blasting and leakage and make quarterly reports.

The MTA believes that the subway tunnel, which will serve as the key link between the City and the San Fernando Valley, will be constructed safely and that any adverse effects will be mitigated. The members of Rescue Our Canyons and Friends of Runyon Canyon and others who have expressed concern over the potential impacts of the tunnel now have assurance that adequate, enforceable, and monitored mitigation measures will be in place.