



# NEWS

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CONTACT: MARY ANN MASKERY/  
JIM SMART  
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS  
(213) 922-2736/922-2700  
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## MTA VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP WORK

MTA employees regularly volunteer their own time to help wash, scrub, and weed in community Clean-Ups throughout Los Angeles County.

More than 175 employees pitch in to help fight graffiti and other forms of blight as members of the Division Advisory Committee (DAC), part of the MTA's Vandalism Abatement Program.

Today, Councilmember Jackie Goldberg presented 12 of the MTA volunteers with certificates of appreciation at the Los Angeles City Council Chambers, for their work in an Atwater Community Clean-Up last month.

The MTA group worked with members of the community to help clear right of ways, landscape medians, clean streets, and plant trees and vines in the Atwater business district and Chevy Chase Park.

"It is wonderful when public entities unite with the community to enhance the environment we live in," Goldberg said. "This type of cooperation is essential to ensure that quality of life is protected and enhanced in the City of Los Angeles."

So far this year, MTA volunteers have taken part in 13 community cleanups, in such places as South Central, East L.A., South Gate, Van Nuys, Sun Valley, Sunland, Echo Park, North Hollywood, and Pacoima, as well as Atwater. They will be working on another clean-up tomorrow in Elysian Valley.

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The Vandalism Abatement Program has virtually eliminated graffiti from the exterior of the MTA buses by working with young people throughout the county, to help them recognize the destructive effects of a dirty, graffiti-filled environment. The work with the community is an extension of that effort.

"The MTA is a part of the community. We want to be there to help community members beautify their environment," said Joseph Drew, MTA CEO. "As part of our program to conquer vandalism, we are trying to teach young people to take responsibility for their communities. We are proud of all the work our employees have done, and the fact that they have done this on their own is a tribute to their concern for a better, safer community. We are delighted to see them recognized for their good service."

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