



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NO FURTHER GROUND SUBSIDENCE NOTED, MTA REPORTS;
HOLLYWOOD GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL**

No additional ground subsidence has been noted along Hollywood Boulevard, Metro Rail officials said today. MTA and city agencies continue to coordinate work in the area.

Construction crews completed installation of steel bracing in a 200-foot stretch of the Number One (north) tunnel between Hudson Avenue and Whitley Avenue earlier this week. Engineers monitoring the tunnel report that no further motion has been detected.

Some water continues to seep into the tunnel, engineers reported. The Number 2 (south) tunnel has shown no signs of leaks.

At the surface, construction crews have been pumping concrete grout into 20 holes drilled in the street to strengthen the soil above the Number One tunnel. Additional grouting holes will be drilled as far west as Cherokee Avenue. This work should be completed early next week.

"What is important to us now is to fully assess the condition and stability of the soils," said Edward McSpedon, MTA executive officer, construction. "The MTA's Tunnel Review Board -- a pre-existing panel of geotechnical and tunneling experts -- is expected to present final recommendations to us early next week so we can develop a plan. We will not resume tunneling until we are convinced we can do so safely."

(MORE)

NO FURTHER SUBSIDENCE

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The MTA and the City Building and Safety Department continue working to allow residents of the Hill View Apartments at 6531 Hollywood Boulevard to return to their homes. Inspectors are giving final checks to the building's gas system before declaring the building safe for occupancy. Meantime, the MTA is lodging the residents at a nearby hotel.

A team of MTA engineers has completed an initial assessment of buildings in the Hudson Avenue area. That assessment has thus far found no apparent structural damage, but the inspection process will continue, McSpedon said.

Repairs to the Walk of Fame in front of the Pacific Theater are under way. The repairs were necessitated by the Aug. 13 break in a fire water supply line. No damage was caused to the 24 stars that were temporarily removed from the sidewalk at the theater entrance.

MTA claims adjustors, located at the Metro Rail field office in the Taft Building at Hollywood and Vine, are accepting claims for lost revenues attributed to last weekend's precautionary closure of a portion of Hollywood Boulevard. To date, 25 business interruption claims have been filed and are being processed as quickly as possible.

Ten claims for building damage have been filed in recent days. Processing these claims is a more lengthy process that may require property inspections, comparisons with surveys conducted prior to tunnel construction and estimating cost of repairs.

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