



# NEWS

May 18, 2001

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **STATE OF JALISCO, MEXICO DONATES 17 WROUGHT IRON BENCHES FOR MARIACHI PLAZA IN BOYLE HEIGHTS**

In a dedication ceremony hosted today by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the State of Jalisco, México, donated 17 wrought iron benches for the Mariachi Plaza, located at the intersection of First and Boyle in Boyle Heights.

The 17 benches made by artisans representing several municipalities in Jalisco are a gift to the people of Los Angeles to complete the cultural landmark of the Mariachi Plaza kiosk donated by the State of Jalisco in 1998. The Federation of Clubs Jaliscienses at Los Angeles donated one of the benches.

"With the gift of these 17 beautiful benches from the State of Jalisco our partnership continues to enrich this vibrant, urban setting next to the future site of the proposed East Los Angeles light rail station at First and Boyle", said Los Angeles City Councilman Nick Pacheco (14<sup>th</sup> District), who represents the community.

"These benches will celebrate, in perpetuity, the mariachis of Los Angeles who bring their music and vitality to the plaza every day of the year," he added.

More..

### 1<sup>st</sup> Add/Mariachi Plaza

The plaza location has been a long-standing post for mariachi bands and musicians, who play for hire the traditional Mexican music at musical engagements.

However, the plaza paled compared to traditional Mexican plazas without the kiosk. In 1992 the MTA became a stakeholder in the Boyle Heights community when the Metro Eastside extension was originated and funds were provided for the construction of the plaza. The State of Jalisco donated the cantera stone and provided the artisans to assemble the kiosk, which instantly became a landmark in the community and for all of Los Angeles

In 1998 the State of Jalisco shipped the kiosk to Los Angeles. Juan Pablo Salas, a renowned stone artisan from Guadalajara, and his crew came to Los Angeles and assembled the kiosk.

"We (the Government) will be close to our jaliscience community and we will develop an administration based on five points: opportunity for everyone; transparent and close government; integral human development; combat crime at the forefront; equitable development for all regional areas of Jalisco," said State of Jalisco, México, Governor Francisco Ramírez Acuña, in a prepared statement.

The ceremony, attended by Abraham González Uyeda, Secretary of Economic Development, on behalf of governor of Jalisco, Francisco Ramírez Acuña, featured mariachi music from Roosevelt High School and folkloric ballet by Bronson House Catholic Charities.

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## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

### ***Gas-Saving Alternative***

#### **MAYOR RIORDAN, STARS LEAD WEEKEND BIKE TOURS TO CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA BIKE COMMUTE WEEK**

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 8 a.m.**

Mayor Richard Riordan will lead a 20-mile community bike ride beginning at 8 a.m. The ride will be approximately 20 miles long with a rest stop at the 10-mile mark in the surrounding community of Los Feliz. Parking and the start/finish area will be the ABC TV Center. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and the ride begins at 8 a.m. sharp

ABC TV Center  
4151 Prospect Ave., Los Feliz  
Los Angeles

#### **JOIN CELEBRITIES ON LOS ANGELES RIVER BIKE RIDE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 20**

Join actors Ed Begley Jr., Joe Spano ("Hill Street Blues"), Alexandra Paul ("Baywatch") and an expected 1,000 or more other bicyclists on the first annual Los Angeles River Ride, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. The ride will begin from the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park.

#### **RIDE TIMES**

100 K ride start time 8 a.m.  
2 K ride start time 9 a.m.  
40K ride start time 10 a.m.

Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (213) 629-2142

**NOTE:** Various short and long rides for families and as well as serious cyclists will be available in different categories: 2K for young and beginning cyclists; 40K ride for families and intermediate cyclists who will ride along the LA River Center and Gardens and back to the Museum; 100K ride from the Autry Museum to downtown Long Beach Bike Station and back to the starting point along the L.A. River. The MTA will provide free rides on the Metro Blue Line for cyclists choosing to ride back to Union Station from Long Beach. All event participants are required to wear bicycle helmets that are ANSI or Snell approved. The Los Angeles River is not a race.

**Note to Editors:**

Check out the MTA web site at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) (top left hand column) for more information on MTA's funding for bikeways and other bike programs in Los Angeles County.

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