



**CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 20, 2008**

**SUBJECT: METRO GOLD LINE EASTSIDE EXTENSION**

**ACTION: APPROVE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT  
FOR RE-INTERMENT SITE AND RE-INTERMENT SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Approve the real estate purchase agreement with Evergreen Memorial, Inc. in the amount of \$461,996 for the purchase of a re-interment site at Evergreen Cemetery; and
- B. Approve a sole-source contract with Felipe Bagues Mortuary, Inc. for re-interment services in the amount of \$178,000.

**ISSUE**

During the excavation that began in June 2005, for the widening of 1<sup>st</sup> Street on a portion of the LA County Crematorium property (that was acquired by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority [LACMTA] from the County of Los Angeles), human skeletal remains and artifacts were discovered and identified as belonging to people who died over a century ago. Through a community process, Evergreen Cemetery, which is located adjacent to the LA County Crematorium, has been selected as the site for re-interment and construction of a memorial.

**BACKGROUND**

The Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension is a six-mile Light Rail Transit (LRT) project consisting of six at-grade stations and two underground stations. The 1.7-mile underground portion beneath Boyle Heights begins at the West Portal at 1<sup>st</sup>/Gless Street and surfaces at the East Portal near 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Lorena Street.

In June 2005, excavation began on a portion of the LA County Crematorium property that was acquired by us for the purpose of widening the north side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street to accommodate the construction of the East Portal. In late June 2005, construction crews unearthed the first evidence of a burial and all construction work stopped immediately and the construction

area became an archaeological excavation site. We first informed the community when we made presentations at the July 2005 monthly Review Advisory Committee meeting. Archaeological excavation did not begin until a presentation was made to the community and a treatment plan was approved by the community Review Advisory Committee and County Officials. Archaeological excavation was completed in November 2005.

In late 2005, the community Review Advisory Committee created an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee to work with the community to receive public feedback to develop a proper and respectful re-interment plan, ceremony and monument that is consistent with the desires of the community. The Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee Chairperson is a Review Advisory Committee member. Fourteen members were self-selected and confirmed by the Review Advisory Committee after an invitation to participate on the committee was mailed out to community members in neighborhoods along the alignment, including the Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles and Chinatown.

Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee meetings began in February 2006, to solicit public feedback and develop a set of recommendations for the re-interment, memorial and ceremony. Meeting notifications in English, Spanish and Chinese were done through newspaper ads, mass-mailings and through our website. The Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee held 22 meetings over a 24-month period, 13 in Boyle Heights and 9 in Chinatown. Recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee were forwarded to the Review Advisory Committee for approvals. The Actions in this Board Item are consistent with the recommendations approved by the Review Advisory Committee.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The funding for this action is included in the FY08 budget in Cost Center 8510 (Construction Contracts/Procurement), under Project 800288 (Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Enhancements and Mitigations), and Accounts 53101 (Acquisition Building and Structure) and 50316 (Professional and Technical Services) as part of the \$4.0 million that was approved by the Board in February 2007 to fund ongoing project enhancements and mitigations beyond the original scope of Project 800088.

### **NEXT STEPS**


Upon Board approval of the recommended Actions, staff will:

1. Execute the agreement with Evergreen Memorial, Inc. and contract with Felipe Bagues Mortuary and work with the Review Advisory Committee to establish a date to allow a re-interment site dedication ceremony to be held;
2. Develop a community/media advisory plan to invite the community and elected officials to the re-interment site dedication ceremony;
3. Continue to work with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the California State University Los Angeles to determine if DNA testing of the remains can provide any further historical benefit and establish a mutually acceptable research

protocol consistent with applicable federal requirements to allow researchers from Cal State Los Angeles access to continue studies of the human remains and artifacts recovered from the County of Los Angeles crematorium site for educational purposes; and

4. Develop a mutually agreeable timeline to complete the research effort and begin the re-interment of the human remains and artifacts after the re-interment site dedication ceremony and construction of the memorial wall.

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Roger Snoble  
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