



Media Statement

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Construction Authority Sets Hearing of Necessity Date for City Land *14-acres is needed for light rail maintenance facility*

Monrovia, CA (December 5, 2011) – Today, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority sent the City of Monrovia and its redevelopment agency (MRA) a Notice of Hearing of Necessity. The Notice was sent to inform the City that the Construction Authority Board of Directors will consider whether to begin eminent domain proceedings to acquire approximately 14 acres of city-owned and MRA-owned land needed for the light rail project's maintenance and operations facility. The Board will consider the matter at a Special Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

"The Hearing of Necessity is a required legal step to consider whether or not to start eminent domain proceedings for the land," said Construction Authority CEO Habib F. Balian. "The board will make the decision in light of our current project schedule and our need to have the land acquired in time for the design-builder to receive a full Notice-to-Proceed next spring."

In July, the Construction Authority board and Monrovia officials agreed to a total purchase price of \$41.6 million. That offer included approximately \$28 million for reimbursing land acquisition costs, \$11.5 million in lost tax revenues, and \$2.1 million in other acquisition costs and fees. But the city and MRA could not execute the agreement with the Construction Authority because California's high court issued a stay order barring redevelopment agencies from entering into new agreements while they considered a number of lawsuits regarding the ability of redevelopment agencies to continue to exist and transact business. A separate agreement for approximately \$16 million was also agreed to in July, for improvements to city-infrastructure as a result of the facility, which has also been put on hold until the purchase agreement can be finalized.

"We are very hopeful that the State Supreme Court will rule in favor of the redevelopment agencies, allowing us to continue with an updated Purchase and Sale Agreement based on the previously agreed-to terms," said Balian. "However, after listening to expert opinions of the initial high court hearing on the cases, there is enough doubt in that outcome that staff felt it prudent to provide the board this option."

The Special Board Meeting will be held at Arcadia's City Hall, 240 W. Huntington Drive, in the Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public and starts at 7:00 p.m.

About the Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa - The Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa is being built by the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority, an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature to plan, design and build the light rail line from Union Station to the county line along the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley. Los Angeles County's Measure R half-cent sales tax increase is fully funding the Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa, an 11.5-mile extension that will add six new stations in five cities and includes a 24-acre maintenance and operations facility. During construction, the \$735 million extension will generate nearly 7,000 jobs and \$1 billion in economic output for the region. Future segments are also being planned and are in varying phases of study.

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