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SEWER WORK ON SLAUSON AND VAN NESS COMPLETED, TRAFFIC RETURNS TO NORMAL

LOS ANGELES (August 23, 2007)—The City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works recently backfilled and paved over the sewer trench on the intersection of Slauson and Van Ness avenues in South Los Angeles, marking the completion of the Slauson/Van Ness/Central Outfall Sewer (COS) External Bypass construction. Traffic lane reductions implemented to accommodate open trenching in the immediate project area have been removed.

The nearly \$3-million sewer project in the central area neighborhood of South Los Angeles is one of many wastewater projects throughout the city. The improvements to the City of Los Angeles' wastewater system are mandated as part of its collection system settlement agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Santa Monica Bay Keeper.

Work on the Slauson/Van Ness/COS External Bypass included the installation of a new diversion structure that relieves sewage flow from one sewer to another, a new short sewer bypass, and replacement of parts in an existing sewer junction structure. The new sewer system beneath the intersection of Slauson and Van Ness avenues will improve sewer conditions and optimize sewer capacity to sufficiently and reliably channel the South Los Angeles neighborhood's wastewater through the rest of the pipes leading to the Hyperion Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey.

Construction on this sewer project was done by Mladen Buntich Construction Co. and began in May 2006 with a March 2007 projected completion date. Work progressed but faced a few unexpected delays due to the discovery of another sewer line during excavation meriting a slight engineering redesign, and the poor condition on a connecting major sewer line that needed to be addressed.

"This sewer project was challenging as the Bureau of Engineering had to overcome some hurdles during construction," said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president, Board of Public Works. "However, we are grateful to the community for its patience and trust while we addressed all the unexpected challenges as quickly and as safely as we could. Now that this project is complete, we are optimistic that it will be a while until the need to have another sewer construction at the intersection of Slauson and Van Ness avenues arises."

(More)

The post-construction process on the Slauson/Van Ness/COS External Bypass is currently in progress. The project will be officially completed when all administrative processes are done and the Board of Public Works accepts it.

For more information about the Slauson/Van Ness/COS External Bypass, call the Department of Public Works, Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333, e-mail: pao@lacity.org, or visit the web site at www.lacity.org/DPW/dpwhome.htm.

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City's third largest municipal division with a \$559 million operating budget. The Department awards more than \$500 million in construction and personal service contracts annually, and oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management.

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