Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project

Ad-Hoc Sub Committee
Review Advisory Committee
February 23, 2006, 6:30 p.m.
Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee

LA County Crematorium Site
Background and Chronology
Time Line:

June 19, 2005 – Metro initiates construction activities on LA Crematory property acquired by Metro. THE PROPERTY IS NOT WITHIN EVERGREEN CEMETERY.

June 22, 2005 – Metro halts construction and declares it an archeological site when a number of bones were excavated from under the existing crematory driveway and near the retaining wall.

July 15, 2005 – Metro presents to the community at the Review Advisory Committee meeting with subsequent monthly updates presenting status of archeological treatment plan, review of alternatives and progress.

August 2005 – Metro initiates archeological excavation of the site.

November 2005 – Archeological excavation complete.

February 23, 2006 – RAC Ad-Hoc Sub Committee holds its first meeting.
Los Angeles County Crematorium Site
Near 1st Street and Lorena Street

Construction of the retaining wall at widened portion of 1st Street

Artist rendering
Los Angeles County Crematorium Site
Current Status

- Excavation related to the widening of the north side of 1st Street near Lorena Avenue has been completed.
- All human remains and artifacts discovered during the excavation have been removed and are being handled with care and proper respect.
- All remains and artifacts are being cataloged, labeled, stored and protected under the care of an archeologist.
- Metro is working with the community through the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Review Advisory Committee’s Ad-Hoc Sub Committee, to develop a proper and respectful re-interment plan, ceremony and memorial that will be consistent with the desires of the community.
Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project

Ad-Hoc Sub Committee
• Metro will work with the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Chairperson who was appointed by the community Review Advisory Committee (RAC) to organize the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Meetings and invite the community to participate.

• Metro will work with interested community members through the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee to receive input and feedback on the re-interment plan, ceremony and memorial.

• The Ad-Hoc Sub Committee after receiving public feedback will make recommendations on the re-interment plan, ceremony and memorial through the Review Advisory Committee.
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Members

- Renee Chavez, Chair
- Aida Bobadilla
- Mary Lou Clinkenbeard
- Susan Dixon
- Juan Jimenez
- Irvin Lai
- Daisy Ma
- Ruben Murillo
- Mary Louise Reeves
- Roxana Reyez
- Silvia Sanchez
- Rachel Santos
- Diana Tarango
- Armando Ybarra
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Outreach

- Review Advisory Committee (RAC) Mailing List
- Walking Man distribution 2,000 door-to-door
- www.metro.net/eastside
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Scope

1. To receive public feedback and provide guidance on:
   - Re-interment Plan
   - Ceremony
   - Memorial

2. To make recommendations through the Review Advisory Committee.
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee Meetings

- 4th Thursday of the month
- Next meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2006, 6:30pm
- Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center
  2839 E. 3rd Street
  Los Angeles, CA  90033
Crematorium Recovery Effort
Crematorium Update

- Laboratory work continues on human remains recovered from Crematorium.
- Laboratory phase should complete in March.
- Artifacts are being catalogued and photographed.
Laboratory Work

- Bones are brush cleaned, not washed due to fragile nature of remains.
- Each bone is identified, recorded and measured.
- The name and side of body the bone was from is recorded on an anatomical diagram of the human skeleton.
Laboratory Work

- The age is determined by looking at eruption of teeth and fusion of growth plates on bones.
- So far 75% of the remains are adults.
- Sex is determined if certain features of bones are preserved.
- The majority of remains are male.
Laboratory Work

- Ancestry can be determined based on certain features of the skull.
- Ancestry of most of the remains studied are indeterminate.
- The majority of remains identified to date are of Asian decent.
Laboratory Work

- Artifacts found include mostly coffin hardware (hinges and handles).
- Chinese artifacts include porcelain rice bowls, porcelain tea pots, coins, jade jewelry, opium pipes, glass gaming pieces, metal buttons.
- Many ceramic buttons have been found with burials.
Laboratory Work

- Many coins have been found, some are Asian, the rest are American.
- Artifacts include coffin wood and grave markers.
- Artifacts include a comb, eyeglasses, jewelry.
Laboratory Work

- A few grave markers and headstones were found. Some of these are Chinese and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern CA is assisting in identifying the name, age and sex of the individual.
- Chinese burial bricks have also been encountered. These indicate the name of the individual and the village they were from.
Laboratory Work

- Once the laboratory work is complete, a presentation of the findings including the number of remains, age, sex, ancestry and documentation of artifacts will be presented to the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee at a future meeting by Cogstone, Metro’s Archeological Consultant.
Ad-Hoc Sub Committee

Questions and answers