



November 4, 1996

**INTEROFFICE
MEMO**

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: JOSEPH E. DREW 
SUBJECT: STATEMENT REGARDING THE MRL EAST SIDE
EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

The treatment of my staff and I by certain MTA Board members regarding the October 7, 1996 report recommending Metro East Consultants, Inc., (MEC) for the East Side Construction Management contract is very disappointing.

Accusations of lying or improper motives by myself or my staff are unfounded and wrong. I have exercised restraint for the past two weeks, but I believe that for the good of the MTA, as well as my own peace of mind, I have to say unequivocally that the action I took with my staff was carefully considered, fully supported by the facts, consistent with RFIQ procedures, and motivated only by what is, in my opinion and that of my staff, in the best interest of the MTA and the public. Influence, pressure, even friendships played absolutely no part in my decision. To suggest otherwise, to let bidders and their supporters engage in petty politics to publicly suggest impropriety by me in this process, and to allow those tactics to retard our progress in this important project is a terrible mistake.

In recommending MEC, full consideration was given to every element and product of the selection process. I made my recommendation to you under the full authority bestowed upon me as the Chief Executive Officer of the MTA. Indeed, I was following, not violating, the process. In deciding which proposer to recommend, I relied heavily on technical considerations, not political considerations. I did not bypass or overturn the evaluation panel, but drew upon their work in deciding which proposer I believe is best able to carry out this important work in very difficult soil conditions.

Nothing has been hidden. The review process I conducted with my staff, and the basis of my recommendation, was explained. The work of the expert panel was accurately represented in my report. The Board can accept my recommendation, or reject it. The Board can and should ask questions and request information, but as far as I am concerned the Board should not engage in practices that damage reputations, undermine leadership, or are destructive of the MTA.

I am proud of my staff, and I am proud that I and staff are willing to make tough decisions and recommendations. At the same time, I know that neither I nor my staff are perfect or omniscient, and you may disagree with recommendations I make to you on any matter. However, what I cannot accept is a lack of support for my integrity or for my leadership. I feel I have earned your support, and I ask for it now.