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Board file
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November 22, 1996

BY FAX

INTEROFFICE MEMO

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

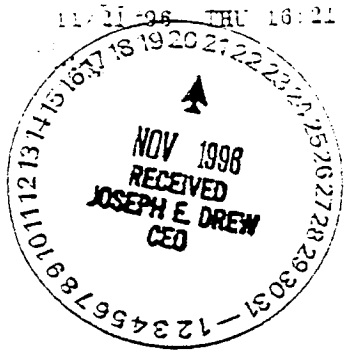
TO: MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: JOSEPH E. DREW

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE CM PROCUREMENT FOR MRL EAST SIDE EXTENSION

Attached for your information is a letter from Congressmembers Becerra, Roybal-Allard, and Torres regarding the procurement of CM services for the MRL East Side Extension.

JED/s
attach



c: Eside
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 21, 1996

Mr. Joe Drew
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Drew:

As promised, we are writing to follow-up our telephone conversation with you yesterday regarding the Eastern Extension of the Metro Red Line and the procurement of a construction manager for that project. To the extent that we are concerned that this project not fall victim to any further delays, we believe that the MTA should proceed diligently with the awarding of the construction management contract. To that end, we urge you to revisit the recommendations of the independent panel of experts which, as you recall, was a process developed and approved by you and your staff.

This is the only means by which we can be assured that the East Side Extension of Metro Rail can remain on track and continue to be credible in the eyes of the public, local authorities and Congress.

Our collective concerns are grounded in the belief that to delay any further would put this critical project at risk. We are concerned that local funds allocated to this project, as well as federal funding, could be put at risk as others seek to divert these moneys to projects which are on schedule and unhampered by investigation. As you know, transportation funding is very competitive and we have worked hard to ensure that Los Angeles and specifically Metro Rail projects have received a fair share of the funding pie. It would be tragic and indeed make this effort more difficult in the future should you forgo a critical opportunity to continue the East Side Extension on time and with a permanent construction management team firmly in place.

We are aware that the MTA's Inspector General is in the process of conducting a criminal investigation. However, as we discussed yesterday, we do not believe that this process should hinder the procurement of a construction manager for the East Side Extension and look forward to talking with you about this more on Friday, November 22. As we said, we are not aware of any aspect of the Inspector General's investigation into the independent review panel's decision that

would preclude the MTA from proceeding with procurement of a construction manager. In contrast, we understand that representatives of the Inspector General's office were present throughout the panel's deliberations and did not indicate any irregularities in the process. We appreciate that you have graciously agreed to have word for us by Friday whether or not the MTA may move forward without further delay with a construction manager for the East Side Extension. If your response is in the negative, you have agreed to memorialize the reason therefore in writing.

The East Los Angeles community has anticipated the construction of a subway transportation system for too long now. We urge you not to allow this project to be unnecessarily delayed any longer. We look forward to speaking with you again on Friday.

Sincerely,

Esteban Torres

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Xavier Becerra