



NEWS From the First Council District

ED P. REYES, COUNCILMEMBER

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PRESS RELEASE

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REYES, CITY OFFICIALS CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF \$162 MILLION SEWER PROJECT – *The City's second largest Public Works project, prompted by sewage overflows in the 1990s, is officially commissioned*

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes joined more than 100 sewer project workers, city and community leaders today to dedicate the \$162 million Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS) Project.

“The six-mile sewer line provides a much greater capacity for wastewater and will protect the health of our families and children,” said Reyes, who helped secure funding for the 6-mile sewer line which snakes through most of Council District One.

“The NEIS also helps prevent events like the 1998 El Niño storms during which our children were left playing in wastewater that overflowed onto neighborhood streets,” Reyes said. “I thank residents for their patience during the construction of the new sewer line. I also commend all who worked on the sewer line, a tremendous undertaking.”

The NEIS was built as part of the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works 10-year, \$2 billion program to upgrade the City sewer system. It extends northward from the Seventh Street Bridge at the Los Angeles River in Boyle Heights to Eagle Rock Boulevard and San Fernando Road in the Glassell Park area.

“The new sewer was constructed in a tunnel dug by subterranean drilling equipment an average of 130 feet below ground in order to minimize disruptions to the surrounding neighborhood,” said Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz.

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City Engineer Gary Lee Moore described the NEIS project as “ a mammoth undertaking.” The tunnel is lined with more than 37,000 pre-cast segments, each weighing more than 2,500 pounds. The piping consists of 1,167 sections, each more than 24-feet-long and weighing 45 tons, Moore said.

“Nearly every division of the Bureau of Engineering was involved in NEIS planning, design, environmental documentation, bid and award, and construction management,” Moore added. “We are really proud of the outcome.”

NEIS, which was constructed by a joint venture of Traylor/Shea/Frontier/Kenny, was the second largest single contract ever awarded by the Department of Public Works. The first largest single contract was for the 11.2-mile East Central Interceptor Sewer, which was completed last year at the cost of \$280 million.

To address the impact of construction on communities closest to the NEIS project, the City, contractors, and unions agreed to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), said Board of Public Works Commissioner Valerie Lynne Shaw. She added more than 800 people, many whom were from communities through which NEIS traverses, to NEIS work crews.

“Safety, teamwork, quality workmanship, and concern for the neighboring public were among the most important guiding principles for constructing NEIS,” said Baron Miya, the Bureau of Engineering’s Project Manager for the NEIS project.

NEIS, which is eight- to 11-feet in diameter, will provide the extra capacity needed to prevent the type of wastewater overflows experienced in the past in the Eastside and Eagle Rock areas during times of heavy rainfall when the 80-year-old North Outfall Sewer could not handle the volume.

The NEIS Project, along with the Eagle Rock Interceptor Sewer (ERIS), will relieve the decaying North Outfall Sewer (NOS) which was built between 1924 and 1930. The NOS has been strained by structural defects resulting from corrosion and population growth.

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