

Can You Dig It? Public Works Has

■ As workers and machines continue to dig, the largest public works project in L.A. history nears completion.

Not everyone might be aware that the largest public works project in the history of Los Angeles has been going on around the clock right under their feet. And now the East Central Interceptor Sewer Project (ECIS to those in the know) has just a few boring "hole-throughs" to complete in the next month or so to reach the final home stretch. These hole-throughs, or land-wall breakthroughs, equate to a topping-out event with building projects above the ground.

As the sewer project continues its progress toward its grand opening, *Alive!* will keep you apprised of its status.

In 1998, during the unusually heavy rainstorms of El Niño, Los Angeles experienced severe sewer spills because of the overflowing of the aging and deteriorating North Outfall Sewer (NOS). The NOS was built more than 70 years ago, and through normal wear and tear, has deteriorated over the years. When Los Angeles experiences heavy and sustained rainstorms, as it did during El Niño, water seeps into the sewer line and causes it to overflow.

To eliminate future overflows and address the infrastructure needs of this region, the City of Los Angeles has designed and is currently constructing the ECIS. The largest Public Works contract in the history of Los Angeles, ECIS will extend from the north part of Baldwin Hills in Culver City to just east of the Los Angeles River near Mission Road. In all, the ECIS route is approximately 11 miles long.



Huell Howser, host of KCET's "Visiting," with an ECIS tunneling crew. Howser recently went underground to see the ECIS construction project firsthand, and devoted a full hour to the project on his show.



Site activity - The ECIS Construction team prepares one of the project's shaft sites for excavation.

To minimize the impacts of open-trench construction on neighboring communities, including traffic and noise, ECIS is being built almost entirely through underground tunneling. This innovative technique involves the use of several tunnel-boring machines that dig segments of the tunnel by following a laser-guided path.

More than half of the new sewer tunnel has already been excavated by these large tunnel-boring machines, and concrete pipe segments



The ECIS tunnel-boring machine (TBM) named "Diane" first peeked through the shaft at Arlington Avenue and Exposition Boulevard at 11:30 a.m. May 9. No hole-through is finished without the team picture!

have been installed within the excavated tunnels. Construction of ECIS began in mid-2001, and the new sewer line is expected to become operational by spring of 2004.



One of the four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) being used to dig the ECIS route arrives at the Los Angeles train depot from Canada, where it was manufactured. By using such technologically advanced machinery, ECIS is being built almost entirely through underground tunneling, minimizing traffic and noise impacts on neighboring communities.

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Disability

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