

LAFD, City Have Voters to Thank for New Fire Station 77 Set for Sun Valley

■ On the morning of Oct. 24, while the fires raged in nearby cities, a beacon of strength and a prescription against fire danger emerged with the groundbreaking ceremony of the new LAFD Fire Station 77 in Sun Valley.

The new fire station is one of 19 new fire stations planned for construction through 2007. The groundbreaking ceremony commenced with the Master of Ceremonies and welcome by Captain Joseph Castro; followed by guest speakers Mayor James Hahn; Councilmember Wendy Gruel; President of the Board of Fire Commissioners Corina Alarcon; and Fire Chief William R. Bamattre.

The groundbreaking ceremony was the

result of a comprehensive study conducted in 1998 by the City of Los Angeles. The study projected that many of the City's fire stations were too small to embrace the increasing needs for equipment and deployment of resources. As a consequence, Proposition F was placed on the ballot and Los Angeles voters approved it on Nov. 7, 2000. The proposition will allow the construction of 19 new modern fire stations.

"Fire Station 77 is one of the fire stations that had been designed and constructed with the direction of the Fire Department, the Bureau of Engineering, and Bovis Lend Lease," says Roberto De Leon, Project Manager for the Bureau of Engineering. "All three groups worked tirelessly with excitement."

The modernization of Fire Station 77 will be vast. Take, for example, modernized fuel tanks that hold 5,000 gallons; 2 ambulances; 1 battalion command team; 2 engines; 1 truck; and specialized fire equipment. Furthermore, for

the first time in an LAFD fire station, Fire Station 77 will be a staging area for large-scale emergencies and a brush fire pre-deployment site; and it will allow accommodations for an explorer post and EMS District Office.

"The square footage of the land purchased for the new fire station is about four times the size of the old fire station, and the building is about three times larger than the old fire station at 15,028 square feet," Battalion Chief John Duca said.

Chief Bamattre analyzed the difference between the old fire station built in 1941 for just \$625 and the land bought for \$35,000. He noted that the land for the Fire Station 77 was bought for \$550,000 and will cost about \$6.1 million to build the fire station.

The new fire station will be one of the first of many fire stations to provide a superior level of service and safety, and it becomes a safe



Firestation 77's state-of-the-art Class 1 fire truck, with smoke looming in background.

house for the community.

Mayor Hahn told a standing group of civilian and civil servants that the Los Angeles voter's approval of Proposition F presented a "much-needed improvement in the quality of Angeleno life with state-of-the-art fire stations." Additionally, the new fire station will have a fire truck drive thru (eliminating street traffic blockage), the means to service vehicles indoors, and a design that will accommodate firefighters for the next 50 years.

City Councilwoman Wendy Gruel said is a place for the community and a symbol of commitment.

Firefighters from the old Fire Station 77 were in attendance, including Firefighters Scott Wofford, Shane Williams and Brent Roof. "The voting citizens wanted this more than anybody," Wofford said. 📷



Board of Fire Commissioners President Corina Alarcon.



Councilmember Wendy Gruel.



Master of Ceremonies Captain Joseph Castro.



Fire Chief William R. Bamattre.



From left : Captain James Polzer, Captain Milton Urquilla and Battalion Chief Ralph Terrazas.



From left: Roberto De Leon and Chief John Duca



Mayor James Hahn.



Captain Joseph Castro at the new Firestation 77 site.



Tom N. Kuwahara, ITA, taped the ceremony for Channel 3.



Rescue Ambulance truck from the Fire Department Museum.



The site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

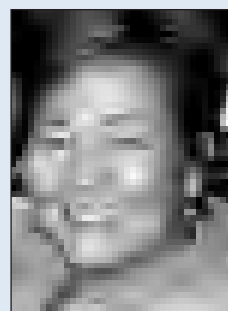


Firefighters and people of the community in attendance.



A rehab truck acted as a food beverage booth for the groundbreaking ceremony.

City Employees in the Media: We're Up to Date During Fire



Jackie David, Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services

It's not enough that the City employees worked hard to protect the City from the ravages of the fires. They also made sure we knew about the status of what they were doing.

Representatives of the LAFD, LAPD and Rec and Parks kept everyone informed.

But we here at the Club got a lot of reassurance from Jackie David, *Alive!* columnist and spokesperson for Animal Services.

For example, here are just some of the outlets which carried her news updates:

1. Los Angeles Times
2. San Francisco Chronicle
3. Fox 11
4. KCBS
5. KCAL
6. KFWB radio
7. KQED radio
8. National Public Radio
9. KNX
10. Horse Trader Magazine
11. Japanese TV

Good going, Jackie and everyone who kept us up to date!

Wanna be heard? To all Club members who appear in the media either as part of your jobs or otherwise, let us know, and we'll tell the world: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com