

The City Digs It!

■ Completion of East Central Interceptor is a major achievement for Public Works and a great day for the future of Los Angeles. Other departments share the high-fives.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Operations Manager

You might not see it. But, now completed, it will serve the City for decades to come.

On Sept. 30, Public Works officially commissioned the new East Central Interceptor Sewer (ECIS), an 11.2-mile conduit deep under the streets of the City. Desperately needed to replace

The ECIS tunnel-boring machine at Arlington Ave. and Exposition Blvd.



the City's aging infrastructure, the ECIS is a triumph for Public Works and other supporting departments, including the City Council, the Mayor's Office, Transportation and the Bureaus of Engineering,

See Sewer Project, Page 4

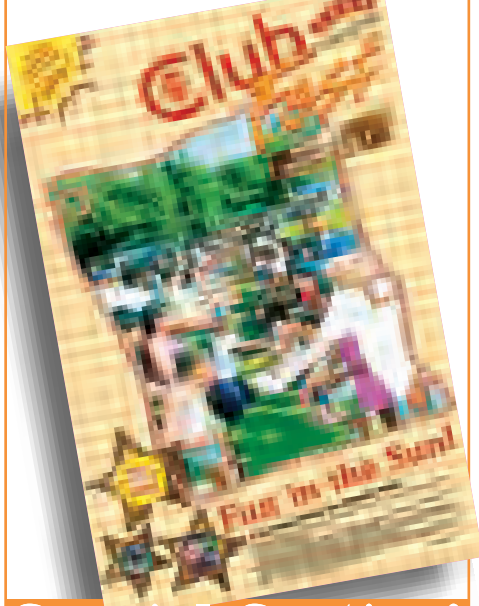


"I am going to splurge at a spa!"

— Maria Romasanta
Fiber Optic Enterprise, DWP
Club Board Member

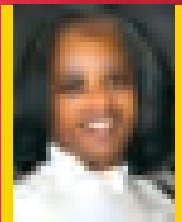
\$1 Million ... Back at You!

Special Section! ClubFest 2004

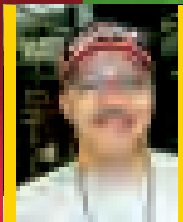


Special Section!

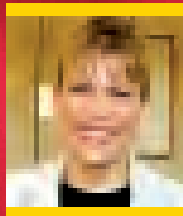
Eva Farlow,
City Attorney's
Office



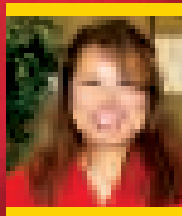
Ralph Ronda,
Senior
Elevator
Mechanic,
18 years



Christina
Kusch,
Management
Analyst,
19 years



Mary Ann Torres,
Sr. Clerk Typist,
5 years



Find out what these and other Club members are planning to do with their refunds (See page 3).

■ It's refund check time again! The Club gets ready to return more than \$1 million in refunds, the most ever. Are you eligible?

\$1 million back!

It's refund check time, and early next month, the Club will be distributing refund checks to more than 8,000 Club members who held Life, Spouse Life and Dependent Life Insurance through the Club.

The \$1 million payout is the most ever refunded by the Club.

"The Club is proud to return refunds to our members who hold life insurance," said Club CEO John Hawkins. "We are known for many things, but the check refund is one of our most popular programs, understandably."

See Refund Check, Page 3

Inside This Issue

Letters to the Editor	3	Pet-Owner Look-Alike-Contest	15
LAFD Harley Group Rides for Charity	5	Pet Club: Animal Control Officers, Unsung Heroes	15
Who Sits on Commissions?	6	Central City Police Boosters Golf Tournament	16
DWP's Harbor Annual Picnic	6	Where in L.A.? Contest	18
In Memoriam: Helen Ann Johnson, Animal Services	7	Reindeer Romp at Zoo	19
New Animal Services General Manager	7	LAFD's Marine Operations	20
Chief Bamattre Films Movie Trailer	7	Employee Benefit Fair at LAX	21
Halloween Safety Tips from LAFD	7	Valley Traffic Adviser Council Golf Tournament	22
All in a Days Work: Vicki Chan, City Attorney	8	Elsie Reiley, Club Member, Retires	23
Seaton Named Interim GM, Port of Los Angeles	8	Events 411: What's Happening Around the City	24
Downtown Outdoor Ice Rink to Open	8	RLACEI Poetry Contest Winners	25
Harbor's AMP Program	9	Life's Important Moments	26-27
Travel Talk: NEW COLUMN!	9	LAFD Chief Bratton Speaks Out on Measure A	28
ITA Luncheon at Griffith Park	10	Cooking with the Club: Cooking Contest Winners	30-31
Barbie Collector Cheryl Power, DWP	11	Movie and Book Reviews	32
Retirees NEWS	12	Classifieds Ads	33
RLACEI Installs New Officers	13	Discount Tickets and Merchandise	34-35



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Million Dollar Refund Is On Its Way!

What Are You Gonna Do With Your Refund?

■ There are just as many
uses as there are recipients.
What are you going to do with yours?

"I'm taking my babies
to the movies."

— **Brenda Walker, CSR,
11 years**



"I am going to take my
son to the movies."

— **Christina Kusch,
Management Analyst, 19 years**



"I am going to put it away
in my kids' savings."

— **Mary Ann Torres, Sr. Clerk
Typist, 5 years**



"I'm going to save it for my IRA!"

— **Jose Gil DeLeon,
Security Officer, 4 years**



"I am going to use my refund
on Christmas presents."

— **Charlie Seals, Security Officer**



"I am going to take my family
out to dinner."

— **Ralph Ronda, Senior Elevator
Mechanic, 18 years**



"I am going to go to
Disneyland."

— **Alex Rosales, Customer Service
Representative, 11 years**



"I am going to give it to my wife."

— **Efrain Guerra, PSO, 30 years**



"I'm going to the movies."

— **Walter Leverett, 4 years**



"What a wonderful gift for the
holidays! I get a nice check
from my life insurance plan
with the Club. I'm so glad to
see the Club pulling through
again in the clutch. It really
pays to be a Club member."

— **Eva Farlow, City Attorney's Office**



Refund Check

Continued from Page 1

Our life insurance plans are great — you can protect your family, and at the end of the year, get a refund back. Members who enroll in these plans end up winning twice. If you aren't enrolled, why not?"

The Club has refunded life insurance funds in 74 of its 76 years.

How much will your refund be? If you are enrolled in the program, your refund should amount to approximately 23 percent of our Life, Spouse Life and Dependent Life premiums paid in the accounting period from Aug. 1, 2003, through July 31, 2004.

Check distribution will start Dec. 7 and 8. If you're enrolled in the program, please make sure the Club has your proper mailing address in case we miss you at work. A phone number where you can be contacted is very useful.

So why are you getting a refund check? And why are you getting so much money back? "Basically, very few people died this year," explained Club CFO Brian Trent. "And the ones who did unfortunately die did not have large amounts of coverage. Fortunately for your loved ones sake most of you lived another year. When you all live a bit longer, your Plan expenses are lower. Your Club (LACEA) Plan with U.S. Life is 'Experience Rated.' In other words, the premiums not needed for claims and expenses are returned to you."

Check refunds are not guaranteed every year. "People die, sometimes in numbers that are not statistically likely yet still possible," Trent said. "Club Members have received a refund check in 74 out of our 76 years."

"Remember, we are not just the refund check people," Hawkins said. "Sure, it's great to get a check back. But you can also save every day on our discount tickets. And if you have an insurance question, we have the most helpful Counselors out there to assist you."

For those of you wondering about the specifics, here they are: \$4,371,092.56 of eligible premium @ 23 percent return equals \$1,005,351.29 refund to 8,082 eligible members as of Oct. 18.

"If you're getting a refund check, spend it wisely!" Hawkins said. "But if not, why not? Enroll today for consideration next year."

Life Insurance From the Club: Great Plans to Fit Your Needs

■ Protect your family ... and get
in line for next year's possible
check refund, today!

If you haven't already, you, too, can take advantage of the Club's great end-of-the-year check refund program, and help protect your family at the same time.

The Club's life insurance plan is a Group Rated "Term Life" product. It is underwritten by AIG, a company that is rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the leading rating organization that gives an independent opinion, based on a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile.

City employees and their spouses can purchase insurance in \$10,000 increments up to \$300,000, depending on eligibility.

Here's how the refund check program works: Once all claims and expenses are paid, the Club divides up any money that's left over and gives it back to members with policies in force (retiree life insurance excluded). Amazing, isn't it?

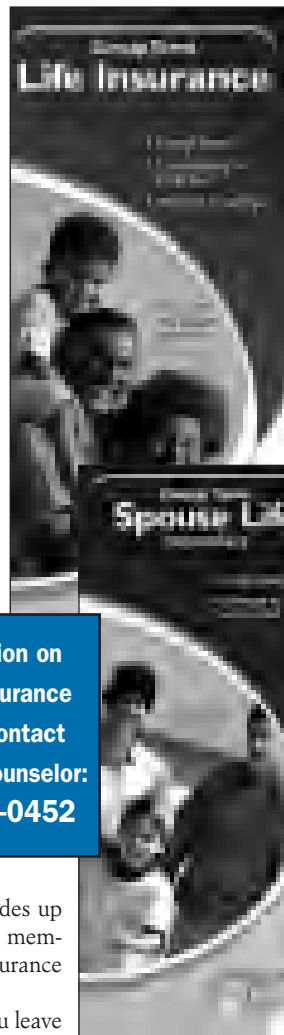
Your Club Life insurance is portable, so if you leave the City/DWP workforce before age 60, your coverage can go with you. After 60, you are eligible for Club Retiree Life coverage.

Cover your spouse any time, even if you are not a member. Even if you stay with the Flex plan. You can get coverage up to \$300,000—much higher than many other plan maximums. The coverage amount isn't tied to yours. And your spouse is eligible for a refund check, too.

Cover your kids, too! Just \$1.20 bi-weekly covers all your dependents for \$10,000 each.

So don't miss out: Cover your family, and, with next year's probable refund check, you can cover some of your holiday 2005 purchases with cash back from the Club. Talk to your Club Counselor today.

For information on
Club Life Insurance
Programs, contact
your Club Counselor:
(800) 464-0452



LETTERS to the Editor

Weblog Tells Insider Stories of City Hall, Is Insightful, Comical*

Thought your readers might be interested in a published article by the Daily News last week. Apparently there is a City Hall blog (what's a blog you ask? Here's how www.askjeeves.com defines one: "a shared online journal where people can post diary entries about their personal experiences and hobbies.")

The Daily news describes the City Hall blog this way: "Written by City Hall insiders, promises to expose the secrets for all to see. And whether or not the blog lives up to its hype, perhaps it will inspire other City employees to start whistle-blowing sites of their own." So, I decided to check it out for myself. It's very interesting and insightful, even comical. Type this in your browser to see it for yourself: <http://fourthfloor.square-space.com/4th-floor-blog/>

— **Jimmy Tomlin, Club Member**

*Editor's Note: Since this letter was submitted, the City Hall blog has been shut down.

ClubFest 2004 Was an Excellent Day to Celebrate City Employees

We over here at the Fire Dept would just like to let you know that Clubfest 2004 was terrific. We are still recovering today from all the fun, food, games and prizes that were available. We had a great time and are looking forward to next year. Several of us had a lot of family members with us who had a great time as well and do not have the ability to express how much fun they had, but ClubFest rocks! And we can't wait until next year. Our children could not believe that they could just run free and have a good time, but that's what they did and came back "suds full of fun."

Once again the Employees Club has pulled off a spectacular event. And we over here at the Fire Dept. are looking forward to many more.

— **Tasha Muldrew, LAFD EMS Billing Unit**

Yesterday's picnic was great. Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make this a successful event. What a treat for me and my family.

— **Rosie Delgado, ITA**

WRITE TO US TODAY!
Send your letters by email to
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
or conventionally:

**The Club, World Trade Center,
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700,
Los Angeles, CA 90071**

Sewer Line Completion a Triumph for City Workers

Sewer Project

Continued from Page 1

Sanitation and Contract Administration.

The commissioning ceremony was held Sept. 30 at 7th Street and Los Angeles River on the east side of Downtown LA. The ECIS project was the second largest single public works contract in the history of Los Angeles.

The ECIS, which extends 11.2 miles from the Los Angeles River to Culver City (with the flow continuing on to the Hyperion Water Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey), in effect creates one of the largest rivers in the state winding right through the middle of South Los Angeles, but few will ever notice it. The ECIS flows at an average of 70 feet underground as it carries up to 230 million gallons per day of wastewater toward the City's main treatment plant near El Segundo. And it's expected to help carry the City's increasing sewer burden for another hundred years. Without it, Los Angeles would have been limited by its dated sewer system. The pipeline itself is made of steel 11 feet in diameter, lined with PVC pipe. The balanced-pressure digging avoided surface disruptions.

Construction of the ECIS was completed in an astounding three-and-a-half years. Planning, environmental studies and a difficult approval process began in the mid-1990s. Through the years, countless city officials were involved: without their hard work, the ECIS could not have been completed.

The project used 350 miners working underground, more than a thousand others in above-ground jobs, and four highly sophisticated tunnel-boring machines. It was built on time and under budget.

ECIS, which will eliminate wastewater overflows during heavy rains and sewer odors that have plagued some Los Angeles neighborhoods, is one of a series of new sewer projects designed to greatly expand and upgrade the City's sewer system. ECIS replaces the 80-year-old North Outfall Sewer (NOS) that overflowed during the El Nino storms of 1998 and triggered wastewater spills in the southern and northeast areas of the city.

ECIS, which has been designed and constructed to have a useful service life of at least 100 years, was formally commissioned at an event attended by City officials and community leaders at an ECIS site at Mission Road and Jesse Street in central Los Angeles. The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Board of Public Works President Valerie Lynne Shaw.

Shaw pointed out that ECIS is the City's largest public works project since the expansion and upgrade of the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment plant, which was completed in 1998 at a cost of \$1.6 billion to create a world-class full secondary treatment facility.

ECIS, which is a line 11 feet in diameter, begins at Mission Road and Jesse Street in central Los Angeles. ECIS then proceeds westward for 11.2 miles, mostly beneath Exposition Boulevard, to approximately La Cienega Boulevard where it turns south, crosses into Culver City and connects with the North Outfall Relief Sewer (NORS), which was completed in the 1990s.

The tunnel for ECIS was dug at depths of 50 to 70 feet or more by four boring machines -- each 300 feet long and weighing more than a diesel locomotive -- that operated totally underground. The boring machines were lowered into place at construction shafts at Mission Road and Jesse Street, Grand Avenue and Exposition Boulevard, and La Cienega Boulevard and Jefferson Boulevard. Dirt excavated by the laser-guided boring machines was transported down the tunnel on rail cars to one of the shafts, then lifted to the surface and hauled away. Pre-cast concrete pipe segments were lowered down the shafts, put into place and grouted. Each pipe segment weighs 45 tons. The boring machines operated 18 to 24 hours a day for three years to get the project completed.

More than 1,100 people, including 350 miners in the tunnel, worked on the project, which was launched in February 2001. Encouraged by Shaw, the Project Labor Agreement sought out and trained new workers from the project area, as well as the rest of Los Angeles. "A total of 330 local workers were hired and trained by the Electrical and Building Trades unions representing project employees," said Shaw, who added that "nearly half of the new workers resided within the zip code areas along the ECIS route."

The project, which was completed three weeks ahead of the mandated deadline of Aug. 29, was carried out by the joint venture group Kenny



A group photo of many of the City employees who participated in the East Central Interceptor Sewer System construction project.

Construction Co./Shea/Traylor/Frontier-Kemp and supervised by the Los Angeles City Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Contract Administration. Now completed, ECIS is being operated by the Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation as part of the City's wastewater collection system. The 230 million gallons of wastewater conveyed by ECIS each day goes to the City's Hyperion Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey.

Another major new sewer under construction nearby is the Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS) which will connect with ECIS at Jesse and Mission. NEIS has a scheduled completion date of June of next year. NEIS, a \$180 million project, will extend about six miles from Jesse and Mission northward to San Fernando Road and Cazador Avenue where it will link up with the Eagle Rock Interceptor Sewer (ERIS), another project under construction.

The NEIS tunnel is eight feet in diameter, and is being excavated by subterranean boring equipment about 100 feet below ground. Along most of its route, NEIS follows San Fernando Road. Over 80 percent of the new tunnel has already been excavated.

The Eagle Rock Interceptor Sewer (ERIS) is a \$21 million project scheduled for completion in January, 2006. The contractor for ERIS, Colich Construction, uses micro-tunneling and trenching to build the new pipeline that will extend for about three miles stretching northward from San Fernando Road and Eagle Rock Boulevard and branching to end at two locations -- Eagle Rock Boulevard and Fairpark Avenue in the vicinity of Avenue 51 and York Boulevard. The ERIS pipelines are between 12 inches and 45 inches in diameter. ERIS is designed to prevent wastewater spills like the ones that occurred in Eagle Rock during the record-breaking storms in 1998.

ECIS, NEIS and ERIS, all three of which are expected to be completed under budget, are part of an ongoing \$2 billion, 10-year sewer renewal and upgrade program being carried out by the Department of Public Works.

The City operates and maintains the largest wastewater collection system in the nation, serving more than four million people within a 550 square-mile service area. The City's collection system consists of more than 6,500 miles of sewers, 140,000 maintenance holes, and 46 sewage-pumping plants. In addition, the City's system outlets more than 600,000 private sewer connections totaling more than 11,000 miles.

The Club sincerely congratulates all the City workers who made the dream of a better Los Angeles come through. Congratulations!



From left: Matt Stevens, Engineering Surveyor, LSA, 5 years; Carlos Castillo, LSA, 13 years; Rob Salerno, FEA, 4 years; Mark Santistevan, Party Chief, 15 years; Maks Kindig, Survey Party Chief, 4.5 years; and Eric Gilbertson, Survey Party Chief II, 10 years.



From left: Eric Keller, Civil Engineer, Harbor, 15 years, worked at Contract Administration when this project started and wanted to celebrate the completion with his former colleagues; and Carlos Tirres, Construction Inspector Contract Administration, 15 years.



From left: Kent Welling, Bureau of Engineering, Research Engineer, 15 years, and Fuh-Shing Pan, Civil Engineering Associate IV, Bureau of Engineering, 17 years, made the hydraulic molding and research models for the project.



Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, said: "It took hundreds of City employees from many City divisions to make this project completion possible."



Deputy Mayor Brian Williams addresses the crowd during the midday ceremony.



Roland Luna: ITA-Channel 35 cameraman, 7 years.



John Reamer, the newly installed General Manager of Public Works, enjoys the festivities.



Sami Wassef, Transportation Engineer, DOT, 20 years of service, said that DOT made sure the street and people were safe during the construction.



Paul Morrison, LSA, 10 years, was inadvertently left out from the group picture and got a photo all to himself.