



Fire Department and Community Leaders throw the first shovels of dirt to begin the building process for new Fire Station 78 in Studio City.



Shovels await the ground breaking at the new Fire Station 31.



Fire Department and Community Leaders throw the first shovels of dirt to begin the building process for new Fire Station 31 in Sylmar.

## 2 Stations Rising

### ■ Ground broken for two new Fire Stations in Studio City and Sylmar.

Information by Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Humphrey, Fire Dept.; Photos by Capt. Rick McClure, Fire Dept.

**FIRE DEPT.** — The City's impressive march toward building and/or revitalizing the City's fire facilities continued with groundbreaking for Fire Station 78 in Studio City and Fire Station 38 in Sylmar.

The projects were funded with Prop F funds.

#### Fire Station 78

Ground was broken October 23 for the new Fire Station 78, 4041 Whitsett Ave. in Studio City.

Former Fire Station 78 was constructed in 1943 and was approximately 4,342 square feet. The Northridge earthquake of 1994 destroyed the 51-year-old World War II-era facility.

With assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a modular apparatus shed and trailer-like building were placed on the site. This temporary facility has served the community for more than ten years, awaiting the construction of permanent Fire Station.

Today, temporary Fire Station 78 houses a Paramedic Engine Company and a Paramedic Rescue Ambulance that are staffed around-the-clock by six LAFD members who handle approximately 13 emergency incidents every day.

Fire Station 78 covers a geographically and culturally diverse four-square-mile area of Studio City and Valley Village that includes a busy retail and office corridor, a major highway, large areas of multi-family housing, and steep hillsides with winding roads that lead to homes built among the flammable brush of the Santa Monica Mountains.

New Fire Station 78 is one of 19 replacement fire stations funded by Proposition F, approved by voters in November 2000.

The new Fire Station will sit on one acre of land and consist of a modern, welcoming and energy-efficient 15,250-square-foot station house.

New Fire Station 78 is categorized as a "Standard Fire Station" and, unlike the current temporary facility, will have the capability of housing one Battalion Chief Officer Command Team, two Engine Companies, two Basic or Advanced



LAFD Chief William Bamattre stands before an artist rendering of the new Fire Station 78.



Two neighborhood boys sit in their local fire engine.



City Council President Alex Padilla gives his remarks next to an artist's rendering of the new Fire Station 31.



LAFD Chief William Bamattre speaks as part of the ground-breaking program.



Shovels line the mound of dirt that will begin the building process as the new station's Engine 78 is parked in the background.

New Fire Station 78, a \$7.98 million facility constructed on \$5 million in property, is scheduled to open in March 2008 to serve Studio City and Valley Village for decades to come.

Life Support Ambulances and one Aerial Ladder Truck Company as well as other specialized Fire Department equipment.

In addition, this new facility can provide for apparatus and personnel pre-deployment during high-hazard conditions, serve as a routine training facility, and support large-scale incident staging and command post operations.

#### Fire Station 31

Ground was broken November 1 for the new Fire Station 31, 16320 Foothill Blvd. in Sylmar.

New Fire Station 31 will be a three-bay facility covering an operationally challenging and once seemingly remote region of north Sylmar just south of the Newhall Pass that has never had a local Fire Station. Since 1956, the area has been served by busy Fire Station 91, more than three miles away. New Fire Station 31 is scheduled for completion in March 2008.

Much has changed in the last half-century, including recent and planned development of the region, which now includes a pair of major highways, a busy commuter and freight rail corridor, expansive housing and popular recreation sites, and steep foothills and canyons covered with flammable brush. Such changes mandate the timely presence of Neighborhood Firefighters and Paramedics made possible by the new facility.

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