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## A Message From the CEO

# Retrofitting a Brighter Future

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

Sometime last year – time is moving quickly! – I was driving through the Sepulveda Boulevard tunnels under the north runways of LAX, when I suddenly thought, wow. When did these tunnels get so bright?

If you've been there, you know. The tunnels – and most of the lights in the City – used to glow with that coppery-orange color of compressed sodium. It was a good solution in the 1970s oil crisis. But now, something had changed for the better. The lanes were bright, clear... just awesome.

And then I put it all together – it must have been the work of Public Works/Street Lighting and its Director, great Club Member **Ed Ebrahimian**. We'd been hearing about the project in the news, and *Alive!* had covered it as part of the CAO's 2011 Quality and Productivity Awards. I made a note at that time that we must do a cover story on this project. And now, a year later, with more than 150,000 fixtures replaced, here we are! (We have a lot of great stories to cover here at *Alive!*, so pardon our delay.)

I hope you enjoy the story, where Club Members **Jim Quigley** and **Palani Segee** take us on a morning jaunt to replace fixtures in Van Nuys. They have the replacement process down to a science, and the only thing that slowed them down was our need for photographs.



From left: Jim Quigley, Street Lighting's LED retrofit project director, being interviewed by Robert Larios, Club Vice President of Operations (and new MBA graduate).

Public Works/Street Lighting's LED retrofit program is exactly the kind of City project that we love talking about – it's smart, efficient, forward-thinking, saves money... and everything's brighter! Kudos to all involved, and keep up the good work as you transition into the project's phase two.

Over the last few years, the LED conversion story received a lot of press, which is not typical for the good work that City Employees do every day. (*Alive!* loves covering the good news that otherwise would be ignored.) Ironically, another City Employee doing great work, **Paul Jewett**, Electrician, Rec and Parks, was also in the news lately. Paul did a great job of simplifying a situation, saving money and – most importantly – serving the residents of Los Angeles. Paul says that being a civil servant means you must serve the people. You're absolutely right, Paul; that's how we feel at the Club. I'm glad that we're able to catch up with Paul and get an update. (And thanks to **Jason Winter**, Electrician, Rec and Parks, for helping us with this story.)

Speaking of catching up with City Employees... can you believe it's been 10 years since the Club started our limited sponsorship of Baker to Vegas teams, and 10 years of coverage in *Alive!*? We love covering Baker to Vegas, a truly incredible exercise in fitness, mental toughness and team cooperation. Thanks to **Dan Basilgo** and **Anita Whited** at LAPD Communications for partnering with us 10 years ago on our Baker to Vegas coverage, and a special shoutout to the Club's own **Arlene Herrero**, Club Director of New Product Development, who handles the mind-boggling task of coordinating our coverage. Congratulations to all participants!

Some other quick notes: It's great to see so many people thanking their fathers on Father's Day. Our feature is rich with tremendous pride... don't forget that the deadline for the **Joannie Mukai** Club Scholarship is quickly approaching... and finally, a giant congratulations to our own **Robert Larios**, Club Vice President of Operations, who earned his MBA at a mighty impressive school (the University of Michigan). I join with everyone here at the Club and say congratulations, Robert. Well done!

Let's all get out there and have a great summer with our families!

**JOHN**

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## Alive! Behind the Scenes

Here's the Club's Angel Gomez (foreground) photographing Public Works/Street Lighting's (from left) Palani Segee, Acting Assistant Division Manager, 30 years of City service, Club Member, and Jim Quigley, Street Lighting Engineer and Project Manager, 21 years, Club Member.



### Alive! Cover Picture

