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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority Files Objection to Court Ruling on CEQA Lawsuit

Filing requests a hearing on the matter and notifies court of intent to move to set aside judgement

MONROVIA - The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority) announced today that it has submitted a formal objection to the December 28, 2011 court ruling related to the agency's Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), because it was based on erroneous facts. The objection was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court yesterday, and requests a hearing on the matter. The objection also notifies the court of the agency's intent to move to set aside the new judgment in the coming weeks, if the court continues with its current ruling.

"The basis of the court's ruling was on the factual inaccuracy that the alternative site evaluated for the project's maintenance facility in the SEIR was outside the Pasadena to Azusa project area, when in reality it sits directly along the alignment" said Construction Authority CEO Habib F. Balian. "We are confident that this misunderstanding will be worked out and this issue resolved quickly."

The Authority's Objection (see attached copy) was submitted to the court this week to inform it of the factual misunderstanding in the ruling and to request a hearing to provide more details. If the court decides to move forward to the next step in the process, the Authority has also put the court and the petitioner on notice through this week's action that the agency plans to file a "Motion to Vacate" the judgment at the appropriate time.

"It is our belief that when the court understands that the Irwindale alternative site is located adjacent to the Pasadena to Azusa alignment, it will conclude that the Authority's SEIR complies with CEQA's requirements regarding analysis of project alternatives - consistent with its' November ruling," said Balian. "We trust the court will correct this misunderstanding as quickly as possible."

The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa is a \$735 million project funded by Los Angeles County's Measure R. The light rail extension is being overseen by the Construction Authority and is currently under construction. The project is on schedule to be completed in 2015, extending the Metro Gold Line light rail line from its current terminus in Pasadena along the Foothills of the San Gabriel Valley. The extension includes six stations in the Cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale and Azusa. During the four year construction project, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation estimates that the project will generate nearly 7,000 jobs and \$1 billion in economic output for the region.

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