

Opening of Sustainable Zoo Parking Lot Funded by Prop O

On April 7, 2011, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Zoo General Manager John Lewis, Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz, Public Works Commissioner Paula Daniels, Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique Zaldivar, City Engineer **Gary Lee Moore**, Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee member Adi Liberman, environmentalists and other community members celebrated the completion of the new Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot project. The event marked the conclusion of the \$13.9-million retrofit of the Zoo's parking lot to implement stormwater best management practices that will reduce the urban runoff that drains to the Los Angeles River, while aesthetically enhancing the entrance to the Los Angeles landmark. The activity was held in conjunction with the announcement of the Zoo's activities for Earth Day.

Councilman Tom LaBonge of the 4th District that includes the Zoo said, "The Los Angeles Zoo continues to enhance opportunities to enjoy this Earth we call home, caring for it and sharing it with all creatures big and small, short and tall. This world-class zoo is on the forefront of responsible environmental stewardship, dedicating this new 'green' parking lot, which reduces the amount of stormwater runoff flowing into the Los Angeles River."

Enhancements to the new parking lot mitigate stormwater runoff through various types of permeable pavement, grassy swales, native trees and other vegetation. The stormwater best management practices will allow for stormwater capture onsite instead of letting it flow down the streets, into the storm drains and out to the Los Angeles River. There are also newly-installed educational signs along the promenade to inform L.A. Zoo visitors about the parking lot's sustainable features. The L.A.



Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz speaking at the event.

Zoo Parking Lot project was funded by the Proposition O Clean Water Bond approved by Los Angeles voters in 2004.

Construction began in early 2010 and continued for one year. Project design and construction were managed by the Bureau of Engineering in close collaboration with the L.A. Zoo. The Bureau of Contract Administration provided inspection services to ensure that the project was built according to bids and specifications.

City Engineer Gary Lee Moore said, "The Bureau of Engineering's team of dedicated professionals work hard everyday to ensure that all our projects meet the city's sustainability objectives. This new parking lot complements our overall goals to rehabilitate and protect

the L.A. River, and ensure its health through green infrastructure improvements."

Environmental activist Adi Liberman, chairman of the Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) that monitors the bond program's projects, budgets and schedules, said, "There is no reason why businesses and other establishments within the city boundaries cannot have sustainable parking lots like this. We all need to pitch in and implement solutions to help prevent water pollution." The COAC is comprised of city residents that are knowledgeable about community and environmental issues in the Los Angeles area.

continued on page 5



l to r, 1st Row: Iftekhar Ahmed, Sergio Bernal (Contractor), Julie Allen, Kendrick Okuda, Gary Lee Moore, Tom LaBonge. 2nd Row: Anagh Mamdapurkar, Mauricio Argente (consultant), Ken Taghizadeh (contractor), Jason Fussel (Consultant), & Charlie Mims (Con Ad).



Zoo Parking Lot - continued from page 4

According to Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique Zaldivar, the City of Los Angeles is working hard to implement projects like the L.A. Zoo Parking Lot to better manage storm-water and capture the valuable resource instead of allowing it wash away." He said, "We only have one water in Los Angeles, and we are committed to protecting and maximizing it. However, we need the input and support of community members to reach our clean water objectives. The Proposition O COAC has been our strong ally as we work towards becoming a sustainable city."

Congratulations go to Proposition O

Program Manager **Kendrick Okuda**, Project Manager **Iftekhar Ahmed**, Project Engineer **Adam Coghil**, Construction Manager **Anagh Mamdapurkar**, CMD Division Engineer **Jose Fuentes**, CMD Assistant Division Engineer **Julie Allen**, **Maria Martin** from Environmental Management Group, **Mike Mulhern** from Geotechnical Group, Deputy City Engineer **Ken Redd**, and from the Bureau of Contract Administration Construction Inspector Robert Simonian, Principal Construction Inspector John Olinger, Chief Construction Inspector Charley Mims, and everyone who contributed to this project.

The L.A. Zoo Parking Lot project's comple-

tion coincides with the L.A. Zoo's Earth Day Expo that took place on April 9 and 10, 2011, and featured conservation and recycling information in an interactive and fun Earth-friendly environment. The two-day festivities, sponsored by KEARTH 101, included live broadcasts, music, craft booths, free 2011 Earth Day activity books, and exhibitors.

To learn more about the L.A. Zoo Parking Lot project and Proposition O, visit www.LAPropO.org or call the Department of Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333.

For more information about the L.A. Zoo, go to www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4200.

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