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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON STORMWATER DIVERSION SYSTEM IN VENICE

LOS ANGELES (February 11, 2011)—The City of Los Angeles will initiate this month the construction of a stormwater capture system in and around the Penmar Recreation Center grounds in Venice. The project will install: a diversion structure at Frederick Street; a new pipe connecting the storm drain to the sewer system; and a detention tank at the west end of the recreation center grounds. This will capture year-round dry and wet weather runoff for beneficial reuse from the Rose Avenue storm pipe that currently draining straight to Venice Beach. Improved water quality, less beach closures, and water conservation are among the Penmar Water Quality Improvement Project's primary objectives.

Construction hours are 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, with some work possible on Saturdays. The \$14-million stormwater project, funded by the voter-approved Proposition O Clean Water Bond, will also include the rehabilitation of three aging sewer reaches in the following Venice streets: Oakwood Avenue, Rialto Court, and Crescent Place.

Project design and construction are managed by the Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering. City Engineer Gary Lee Moore says, "We are proud to work on a Proposition O project that will help the City achieve its environmental goals through stormwater pollution prevention." He adds, "Our team of professionals is committed to ensuring that we build this project to the highest standards with the welfare of the community in mind. We appreciate the Venice community's patience as we complete our work."

Construction impacts along Rose Avenue include traffic plans that will close the existing westbound lane to accommodate work on the street along the side of the golf course. However, traffic will be shifted to the existing center turn lane, maintaining at least one lane of traffic in each direction. Frederick Street north of Rose Avenue will also be closed, and activities at the Recreation Center ball field will be relocated by the Department of Recreation and Parks to other facilities.

The Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, responsible for maintaining Los Angeles' stormwater infrastructure, conceptualized this project to intercept the stormwater from the Rose Avenue storm drain, pump it through a sewer line, a trash filter to remove contaminants, and into a 2.75-million gallon detention tank under the Penmar Recreation Center ball field for future irrigation use. Stormwater processes like this, called "stormwater best management practices," are

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common, and are being implemented at several locations including the Mar Vista Recreation Center, Garvanza Park and Temescal Canyon Park.

Enrique Zaldivar, director of the Bureau of Sanitation, says, "The Penmar Water Quality Improvement Project is one of many projects that will help the city of Los Angeles keep Santa Monica Bay clean. The health of our waterways and the ocean is a priority that we share with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the environmental community. We are excited to begin construction on another stormwater infrastructure improvement that will take us a step closer to full regulatory compliance for clean water."

Construction on this stormwater improvement will continue through late 2012. The completed project will restore the Venice streetscape to its current condition.

For more information about this project, visit www.LAPropO.org or call the Department of Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333. For questions about impacts to the Penmar Recreation Center activities, please call the facility directly at (310) 396-8735.

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