



**ERIC  
GARCETTI**  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



200 N. Spring St. Room 470 • Los Angeles • CA 90012

For Immediate Release—**Photos Available**  
June 15, 2006

Contact: Josh Kamensky (213) 473-7013

## **PATROLS, MARKERS MAKE RIVER SAFE TO ENJOY GARCETTI PRESENTS POLICING SYSTEM IN CONCERT WITH MILE MARKERS**

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti joined representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Board of Public Works, and river neighborhood community groups to present an innovative system of river policing. The river now features mile markers that can be used as addresses along the river; these, combined with regular river bicycle patrols, help citizens and police prevent crime and make the river safe for recreation.

“Years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers made the Los Angeles River safe for the expansion of the city,” said Garcetti, who represents multiple communities along the river and has been a chief advocate of its restoration. “Now with the help of the police, the community, and the government, we are making the river safe to enjoy as part of our community.”

“The Los Angeles River is a critical part of the neighborhoods in Northeast Division,” said Captain Morris Smith, Commanding Officer, Northeast Area. “When we patrol it, we fight the crime that seeps back into the neighborhoods at the same time as we make the river itself more welcoming.” Northeast Division sends a bicycle team to patrol the river six days a week; they cover territory between Los Feliz Boulevard and the 110 Freeway.

“The beautiful river markers will add to the safety of the LA River,” said Board of Public Works President Cynthia Ruiz. “They will help facilitate responses by LAPD and the Fire Department to emergency calls from citizens along the river.” The river markers feature a blue heron and appear every tenth-mile between Fletcher Boulevard and Los Feliz Boulevard. They were initiated by a Garcetti-Reyes council motion and will eventually start at the river’s Long Beach end.

“For too long, the primary feeling many neighbors in Atwater Village had of the river was fear,” said Cesar Portillo of the Friends of Atwater Village, which has brought the river back with mural projects, anti-graffiti efforts, and community clean-ups. “Nothing increases a sense of safety more than knowing that law enforcement is present. We strongly support the efforts of Council President Garcetti, the LAPD and the community in helping us reconnect the neighborhood to the river.”

“With our graffiti paint-outs, joint patrolling efforts with LA Bridges, and twilight river walks, we are building a community that uses the Los Angeles River,” said Barry Shapiro, of Atwater Village Neighborhood Watch. “I thank Council President Garcetti and his staff for helping to make the river a safe and usable resource for the members of our community and all of Los Angeles.”

###