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Controller Greuel Issues Management Review of LADOT

LOS ANGELES – Following recent audits and investigations regarding systemic weaknesses at the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), today City Controller Wendy Greuel released a comprehensive management review of the Department. The 218-page review, which was conducted by a consulting team in conjunction with the Mayor's and Controller's offices, recommends a series of reforms to improve performance and enhance accountability and calls for major structural changes that have been embraced by the Department's new leadership.

"After all of the turnover at LADOT in recent years, I am pleased to see department managers taking my audit recommendations seriously as a blueprint towards creating a world-class transportation system in our City," said Greuel. "We are at a crucial period in the creation of the next generation of Los Angeles' transportation infrastructure, and we need effective and accountable leadership at the department to keep Los Angeles moving in the right direction."

"The DOT is charting a new path thanks to the hard work of General Manager Jaime de la Vega and other managers and employees at the department who have all embraced changes to improve this key City agency," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "I appreciate the Controller's recognition of these efforts."

Greuel's review includes 26 specific action plans to reorganize most aspects of LADOT's internal functions, all focused on achieving a long-term vision of a Los Angeles with a seamless, world-class transportation system. Some of the most significant action plans include:

- A top to bottom reorganization of LADOT's management, emphasizing managerial development for top officials and a more clearly defined organizational hierarchy.
- A plan to get LADOT's fiscal house in order by simplifying revenue collections, improving internal controls over budget, and streamlining the process for contract awards.
- Making parking enforcement and traffic control more efficient and effective by improving overtime practices and fully contracting out meter revenue collection.

"As chair of the Transportation Committee, I am determined to help free Los Angeles of its choking gridlock by building mass transit, promoting alternative forms of transportation, implementing cutting edge traffic management technologies, and making Los Angeles a more friendly city for cyclists and pedestrians," said Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. "To do that, we need a lean, smart, and well-managed department of Transportation. I welcome Controller Greuel's report and I am gratified that it shows DOT is making progress. I am eager to study her recommendations for continued improvement, and will consider those matters promptly in committee."

"The Department thanks the Controller for conducting this management review. The department concurs with and has or will be implementing the recommendations," said LADOT general manager Jaime de la Vega.

In order to identify needed change, this management review involved many stakeholders:

- More than 30 LADOT staff and 22 external stakeholders were interviewed;
- 919 LADOT employees were surveyed; and
- More than 80 LADOT employees helped develop 26 new action plans that cluster around six areas for improving LADOT ranging from advanced planning to innovation and technology to improving parking enforcement and traffic control.

This is the latest audit Greuel has conducted focused on the Department of Transportation over the last few years. Previous reports criticized the Department's parking scofflaw enforcement, parking meter collections, and parking citation process. Controller Greuel, with the support of the Mayor's Office launched this top-to-bottom review in June of 2011 to address the structural failures of the Department's old management system.

To date, Greuel has conducted more than 50 audits and uncovered nearly \$125 million that the City has lost to wasteful spending, fraudulent activity and abuse of City resources.

For more information, log on to the Website of Los Angeles Controller Wendy Greuel: <http://controller.lacity.org/index.htm>

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