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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR BREAKS GROUND ON EL SERENO BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT TO INCREASE NEEDED PARKING AND PROVIDE MORE GREEN SPACE

El Sereno Parking Grove Will Reduce Dust from Neglected Dirt Parking Lot

LOS ANGELES — Councilmember José Huizar, District 14, along with Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Yolie Flores, and El Sereno community leaders, broke ground today on the long awaited El Sereno Parking Grove. The El Sereno Parking Grove, a soon-to-be fully paved and landscaped parking lot, will replace a decades-old dirt lot between Farmdale Elementary School and the El Sereno Recreation Center.

"It has been far too long that our community members and teachers have had to park in a dirt lot. When cars drive on the lot dust kicks up in the dry season and mud flies during the rainy season," said Councilmember Huizar. "This project has been eagerly anticipated by the community and seeing the bulldozers and grading equipment today on this dirt lot means that things are improving."

After decades of neglect, Councilmember Huizar identified and fought hard to obtain nearly \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grants to fund the beautification project. By day, the current unpaved lot is packed with cars from teachers, staff and parents serving the school. At night, when school is over and the staff has gone home, the unlit area provides parking for residents playing soccer at the park and other recreational activities.

"Building the El Sereno Parking Grove was important to me from an environmental perspective. The surrounding school and neighborhood had to deal with the dust from the empty lot. The new site may help improve children's health playing around the area," he added.

Once completed, the new parking grove site will offer a striking improvement for teachers, parents and residents visiting the school and recreation center access.

The El Sereno Parking Grove is scheduled for completion in early 2008.

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