



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

Department of Recreation & Community Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baldwin Park, Irwindale and L.A. County Parks and Recreation to Host *Metro's Open Streets Pride of the Valley on Sunday, September 16*

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (September 10, 2018) – The cities of Baldwin Park and Irwindale, and L.A. County Parks and Recreation have partnered with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to host the Pride of the Valley Open Streets event on Sunday, September 16 that will provide bicyclists, walkers, runners and rollers with a full day of car-free local streets. It is the first Open Streets event in the Emerald Necklace region along the San Gabriel River Trail.

'Pride of the Valley Open Streets' will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., where four and a half miles of roadway will be closed to vehicular traffic, attracting thousands of participants from throughout Los Angeles County. This event promises to bring a spirit of sustainability together with a block party environment. Attendees can enjoy a family-friendly environment with live performances by Erik Antonio, featuring Mariachi Los Reyes, one of Hollywood's most sought after Mariachi groups, health and wellness activities, food stalls, rock climbing wall, BMX demonstrations, Pokeman gyms and stops for gamers, and free kid fun zones throughout the route.

City of Baldwin Park Mayor Manuel Lozano, Irwindale Mayor Mark Breceda and County officials will kickoff the event at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Maine Avenue and Ramona Boulevard by cycling through the start line as thousands of bicyclists, runners, skaters and pedestrians follow.

"We look forward to being part of a paradigm shift that encourages communities to come together while promoting alternative modes of transportation," said Baldwin Park Mayor Manuel Lozano. "It is what the future of mobility looks like."

The Pride of the Valley event helps build upon the connectivity that currently exists for pedestrians and cyclists within the region's communities, and demonstrates a collaborative process between numerous public agencies. It is intended to help foster a better, greener more sustainable environment in the San Gabriel Valley.

"What's more fun than walking, biking or skating on streets that are normally full of cars! The streets of Baldwin Park and Irwindale will welcome walkers, bikers and skaters along nearly five miles of carless streets," said L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Sheila Kuehl. "Metro's Open Streets program is a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to literally dance in the streets!"

Around the world, Open Streets events are becoming an increasingly important and innovative way to encourage a shift to sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and riding transit, reduce traffic congestion, improve public health, increase economic activity and encourage civic engagement and civic pride. For many, it may be the first time they ride a bike.

The event is funded by Metro's Open Streets Grant Program, which seeks to bring visitors to new parts of the region to explore and enjoy car-free streets within Los Angeles County. Metro supports numerous active transportation programs that create better conditions for walking and bicycling, particularly to connect with Metro's growing public transit system. The agency's Open Streets Program, the largest of its kind in the United States, invests approximately \$2 million each year for car-free events, many in new communities. In total, 23 Open Streets events have been hosted to date.

"The 'Pride of the Valley Open Streets' is an event that transforms our neighborhoods and our streets. For one day, we close off traffic on our streets so that they become pedestrian-friendly, allowing local residents to walk, jog or dance freely on our roads," said L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis said. "This gathering builds community pride while easing traffic congestion. I commend the cities of Baldwin Park and Irwindale, Metro and L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation for their commitment to host this family-friendly event."

Other event participants and sponsors include Waste Management, SCE Federal Credit Union and Kaiser Permanente.

Street closures for the event include Maine Avenue (between Baldwin Park Boulevard and Olive Street), Olive Street (between Ramona Boulevard and Azusa Canyon Road), Azusa Canyon Road (between Cypress Street and Arrow Highway) and Santa Fe Dam entrance from Arrow

Highway and Azusa Canyon Road. To learn more, visit www.prideofthevalleyopenstreets.com

About the City of Baldwin Park

The City of Baldwin Park is one of 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a population of more than 75,000 residents. For additional information, please call (626) 813-5201 or visit www.baldwinpark.com

About the City of Irwindale

The City of Irwindale is located in the San Gabriel Valley and is home to 1,422 residents and over 700 businesses. For additional information, please call (626) 432-2200 or visit www.ci.irwindale.ca.us

About the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation provides the residents and visitors of Los Angeles County with quality recreational opportunities that promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthen the community through diverse physical, educational and cultural programming. The Department also enhances the community environment by acquiring, developing and maintaining 182 County parks including 4 gardens, the largest municipal golf course system with 20 courses at 18 locations, trails and open space areas and more.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County.

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