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A Call for the Activation of the El Sereno Relationship Networks (LA RED)  
Against the 710 Tunnel and For Health, Housing and Humanity

Considering

- Considering that the current result of the Eastside Café consultation or *Consulta* through which over 500 El Sereno residents overwhelmingly expressed that the community **wants positive community use of surplus lands and homes** that were, over the last 50 years, obtained by the California Transportation System (Caltrans) through odious and often racist eminent domain, and
- Considering that Caltrans is the largest landlord in El Sereno by far, in custody of over 300 houses and has a well documented history of irresponsible and inferior maintenance, empty, dirty and rat infested lots and are known for allowing homes to deteriorate and dilapidate so much so that they are known throughout El Sereno as “the slumlord,” and
- Considering that Caltrans has in the last several years shown a **pattern of evicting tenants** for numerous reasons but especially of those that qualify for low and middle income housing in accordance to the Roberti Bill, as well as tenants that under this economic crisis can not afford the relatively high rents and
- Considering that Caltrans has also shown a vindictive pattern of **evicting tenants that stand up and stand out for the housing right of others** as in the case of Don Jones, who Caltrans has attempted to evict 2 previous times and has failed and is today trying to evict him again, and
- Considering that Caltrans, the MTA together with multi-national corporate interest are planning to develop a 4.5 mile tunnel that would according to scientific studies, potentially require the destruction of 200 homes in El Sereno, greatly increase the contamination of our air and reduce the quality of life and our life expectancy particularly of El Sereno residence by increasing the incidence of asthma, hardening of the arteries and increasing the incidence of cancers (*Inhaling a Heart Attack, LA Times, June 23, 2009; We Call This Cancer Alley, Environmental Health Perspectives, vol117, No.5 May 2009; Black Lung Lofts, Many children being raised in L.A.'s hip, new freeway-adjacent housing are damaged for life, Comments, By Patrick Range McDonald Saturday, Mar 6 2010*) and
- Considering that we in El Sereno have a rich and vast network of social relations and of groups, circles and collectives that can unite to take responsibility for our community, for our children, for our future, we propose the following:

Proposal (The Call)

- We propose that we, the people of El Sereno, all races and ethnic groups, formalize our relations into a red (Spanish for network) of families, conmadres, compadres, vecinos, places of worship, sports teams, equipos deportivos, small businesses, union and not-yet-union workers, negociantes, amas de casa, punks, MEChA, Wilson High School Students, environmental organizations, gardens, student groups, cultural workers and circles, education workers, clases de Ingles, Jr. High School Students, Teacher groups, Parent Teacher Associations, senior citizens and residents, to oppose the further degradation of our community and
- We propose that together we build alternatives to the current top-down governance structures and alternatives to fossil fuel and all carbon based options, such as the tunnel, that we develop and select clean alternative technology, that we convert empty dirty lots under Caltrans custody into spaces of good positive

land use for food sovereignty, cultural and artistic spaces, community based education and that we build our community's availability of affordable housing, that all Caltrans houses be rebuilt, maintained and rented at affordable housing rates, that we come together and develop our capacity to stop any evictions based on lack of money because of loss of jobs during this economic crisis. In short we propose that we, the people's socially networked society continue the process of developing the community's ability to determine its own destiny, together with, connected to and in support of other communities, and

- We propose that we start this process by having **social events (ENREDADAS)** or Mixers with music and art and food-- speaking and conversing about our situation, so that we can agree, create consensus and lock hands and move together as a Red/Network, and
- We propose that the mixers' main objectives be to inform ourselves on these issues and raise funds for a 710 Corridor Eviction Fund, inspire others to live in resistance of what is bad and in pursuit of what is good for us, and
- We propose that these initial EnRedadas or Social Network Mixers take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, August 14<sup>th</sup> and October 16th, and in addition
- We propose that these social network events be only the initial inspiration to thousands of small and large transformative projects and millions of individual acts so that we may exist in opposition to all that offends us and in support and pursuit of all that dignifies us. So,

We invite all El Sereno Residents to acknowledge their existence in and contributions to the LA RED. We feel it is time that the People's Independent Network or LA RED, analyze its own situation, take responsibility for its own community, and act on its own behalf in terms of housing and health as human rights. We call for the dignifying of mother earth as our environment, food sovereignty, dignified jobs, education and a self-sustainable moral economy. We call on the El Sereno community to look at our differences as rich contributions and to focus on uniting on a richly diverse but cohesive self-determination for El Sereno.

All three initial EnRedadas will take place at the El Sereno Los Angeles Christian Presbyterian Church, 2241 No. Eastern Ave, L.A. 90032. The following are the dates and an incomplete list of participants:

April 24<sup>th</sup>, Domingo 7, Las Cafeteras, La Santa Cecilia, The Gardeners?

August 14th, Quinto Sol, Zocalo Zue, No Que No, Jazilla

October 16th, Quetzal, Buyepongo, Fandango Para La Humanidad , La Unidad y La Dignidad