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STATE AWARDS REGION $30 MILLION FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

California Transportation Commission funds trade corridor improvement

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SACRAMENTO – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) today awarded $30 million for two projects that will improve the flow of goods in and out of the Sacramento region. The city of Sacramento received $20 million to realign the Union Pacific tracks in the Railyards area. The Port of Sacramento received $10 million to deepen the Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel.

These projects were recommended by the SACOG Board of Directors in December 2007, and were part of a Northern California Trade Projects list developed by transportation planning agencies across northern California. The CTC approved $3.1 billion in projects throughout the state, with the northern California share of funds totaling $825 million.

Construction on the Sacramento Railyards Rail Realignment will begin in 2010, and will be completed in 2012. The total project cost is $51.6 million, with the rest of the project funding coming from local sources. The realignment project removes a key bottleneck in the rail line, enabling faster service through Sacramento and additional freight capacity, eliminating some truck traffic from local roads.

The Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel is an $83 million project, with $10 million funded by the Port of Sacramento, and the balance by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project will deepen the ship channel from 30 feet to 35 feet, which allows larger ships to service the Port of Sacramento, and reduces the need for additional truck trips between the Bay Area and Sacramento. The project is expected to be completed by 2012.

The region is working to follow the Blueprint smart growth patterns to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution seeks a mix of highway, local road and transit projects through the variety of transportation programs to emerge from the $19.9 billion in transportation bonds approved by voters in November 2006.

SACOG coordinates transportation planning, funding and project delivery for Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and the cities within them. SACOG also engages elected officials in land use and other regional issues.

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