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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON \$420 MILLION CALDECOTT TUNNEL FOURTH BORE PROJECT

Largest Recovery Act Allocation to Date in Nation

Oakland – Caltrans and local and regional partners today broke ground on the start of construction on the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project, a four-year, \$420 million project that will provide numerous jobs for Californians. This is the largest Recovery Act allocation to date in the nation.

The project is primarily financed by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The injection of federal Recovery Act funds helped re-invigorate this project during an economic downturn which could have stalled congestion relief for the Bay Area. This project and many others around the state are being completed sooner than expected thanks to Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts to expedite Recovery Act funding.

"We went to the federal government and secured nearly \$200 million from the Recovery Act to jump start this project," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "My administration is working hard to ensure stimulus dollars are pumped into California quickly and responsibly to stimulate the economy," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This is a perfect example of creating jobs for hardworking Californians while improving California's transportation infrastructure."

The project is a partnership between Caltrans, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency. Funded with \$197.5 million in federal Recovery Act dollars, \$11 million in Proposition 1B monies, as well as other federal, state, regional and local funds, this project will reduce congestion on State Route 24 by building a fourth tunnel bore as part of the Caldecott Tunnel, linking Orinda to Oakland. Upon completion, the new northern bore and the existing northern bore will carry westbound traffic, while the two southern bores will carry eastbound traffic.





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"The new configuration will eliminate the need to reverse the traffic direction in the existing center bore twice a day to accommodate morning and evening commuters," said Caltrans Director Randy Iwasaki.

"Voters in Contra Costa County made this project a reality when they passed Measure J," said Maria Viramontes, Chairperson of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. "Measure J provides nearly 30 percent of the project funding. Without it, there would be no Fourth Bore Project."

"This project will dramatically reduce congestion for Alameda County residents who make the reverse commute into Contra Costa County on weekdays," said Mark Green, Chairperson of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency. "It will also help reduce backups on weekends when traffic tends to be less predictable."

"This project will strengthen the region's economy with jobs and improve the area's livability by reducing the traffic congestion that frustrates the thousands who use this route each day," said U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari.

Under Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, California leads the nation with \$2.2 billion in Recovery Act funding obligated to 790 highway and local street transportation projects statewide. Of these, 427 projects worth \$2.36 billion have been awarded contracts to begin work, with an additional \$317.8 million in federal stimulus funds expected to be awarded to 106 projects by April 2010. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: recovery.ca.gov.

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