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California Infrastructure Coalition Applauds Governor for Restoring Transportation Funds

Governor's Budget Plan Returns Long-Overdue Funds to Transportation

SACRAMENTO -- The California Infrastructure Coalition (CIC) today praised Governor Schwarzenegger's announcement that his 2005-2006 Budget will fully fund Proposition 42 with \$1.3 billion in transportation funding. The long-overdue funding will rebuild and expand the state's overburdened transportation infrastructure.

"The Governor's announcement is an enormous step toward repairing the state's deteriorating infrastructure," said CIC Chairman and California League of Cities Executive Director Chris McKenzie. "The restoration of this money reflects the public's concern that the poor condition of their roads and bridges is adversely affecting their quality of life."

In 2002, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 42, redirecting the state's portion of sales tax on gasoline from the General Fund to transportation programs and projects. However, out of the \$2.4 billion expected from Proposition 42 for FY 2003-04 and FY 2004-05, only \$295 million has flowed to transportation projects.

Between 1970 and 2004, California's population grew by 82 percent, its licensed drivers by 91 percent, its registered vehicles by 130 percent and its vehicle miles traveled by 199 percent. Yet, California increased its road capacity by only 19 percent.

"If we value our quality of life, then sustained, adequate investment in public infrastructure is mandatory," said Don LaBelle, CIC Board Member and Director of Public Works, Alameda County. "Infrastructure investment will also keep quality jobs in moderate economic downturns. We must all be activists when it comes to financing public infrastructure."

The California Department of Finance in 2003 estimated an investment need of \$54.2 billion over a 5-year period for state infrastructure alone. Local infrastructure investment need could potentially cost billions of dollars more.

The California Infrastructure Coalition is a non-profit, broad-based organization that advocates for dedicated and consistent sources of funding to sustain California's vital infrastructure. For more information, visit CIC's website at www.calinfrastructure.org.

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California State Association of
Counties
California Business Roundtable
Association of California Water
Agencies
California School Boards
Association
America Public Works Assoc.,
California Chapters
American Society of Civil
Engineers, California Sections
California Special Districts
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