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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORT OF WEST SACRAMENTO RECEIVES STIMULUS FUNDING FOR NEW MARINE HIGHWAY

West Sacramento, Calif., Feb. 17, 2010 – The Port of West Sacramento today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is awarding \$30 million to a partnership including the ports in West Sacramento, Oakland and Stockton to launch an inland marine highway service.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, the funding will be used to initiate a container barge service between the three ports as an alternative to existing truck and rail infrastructure. The ports expect the service to be used primarily for consumer goods and agricultural products grown in Central California and Northern California.

The partnership hopes to have service underway by the end of 2010.

"Investing in infrastructure is one of the best ways to create and sustain good paying jobs," said Congressman Mike Thompson, who represents the Port. "Every dollar we invest in infrastructure gives our economy a 59% return. This collaborative project has received widespread support from the business community, local transportation and regional planning agencies, the goods movement and shipping sectors, air quality management districts, and labor, among other stakeholders vital to the project's success. It will create both near term construction jobs, long term employment opportunities, and will deliver economic and environmental benefits to our region and state."

The Port of West Sacramento will use a portion of the funding to construct a crane and other facilities needed for handling container cargo. Since its opening in 1963, the Port has exported and imported only bulk cargo, such as agricultural projects and construction materials.

“This is a great project for the Port and Northern California,” said Mike McGowan, chairman of the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission. “Adding containers to the cargo we can handle will produce significant economic and environmental benefits for our region, and we look forward to implementing this exciting new service with Oakland and Stockton as soon as possible.”

“Our vision for the Port’s future as a key Northern California goods-movement hub is coming to fruition,” said Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of the City of West Sacramento and member of the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission. “We’ve worked hard to develop a strategy for long-term success and it’s exciting for the Port, City and region to see those efforts paying off.”

According to the grant application submitted by the three ports, the marine highway project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, relieve congestion on Northern California and Central California highways, and help reduce round-trip and overall truck miles traveled between distribution centers and port facilities in the area, with corresponding savings in fuel costs.

The project is not only a cumulative local effort of the three ports, but aided greatly by many other local businesses and organizations. In the Sacramento region, the project has been successful due to assistance by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, Northern California World Trade Center, Sacramento Metro Chamber, Farmer’s Rice Cooperative, Archer Daniels Midland Corporation, Tony’s Fine Foods, California Rice Commission, Devine Intermodal and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

According to the [DOT’s announcement](#), the TIGER program was included in the Recovery Act to spur a national competition for innovative, multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional transportation projects that promise significant economic and environmental benefits to an entire metropolitan area, a region or the nation. Funded projects include improvements to roads, bridges, rail, ports, transit and intermodal facilities.

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