

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

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San Bernardino County

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### **Mitzelfelt, Local Leaders Ensure Fair Distribution of Stimulus Funds**

SAN BERNARDINO – The amount of stimulus funds going to local jurisdictions was tripled above the amount originally proposed by the county transportation agency after San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, in partnership with other local leaders and transportation staff, succeeded today in winning approval of a plan that guarantees local jurisdictions their full share.

The San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) Board of Directors today unanimously approved a plan that will place upwards of \$76 million in federal stimulus funding to the reconstruction of Interstate 215 in San Bernardino, while SANBAG guaranteed that it would use other local and state funds to provide cities and the county with the money they would have received otherwise under the stimulus formula.

The county is in line to receive \$80.9 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the stimulus bill signed by the president in February. SANBAG staff had proposed putting all the money on the reconstruction of Interstate 215 through San Bernardino, a project that was in danger of running out of money due to the state fiscal crisis. SANBAG offered to use a separate fund to provide \$10 million to local jurisdictions, even though state legislation signed last week requires that 40% of federal stimulus money – up to \$32 million – be distributed to local jurisdictions.

“We’re more than happy to assist regional projects by temporarily diverting funds from other areas when that is the best strategy,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. “But we needed to guarantee that local jurisdictions are made whole when they agree to sacrifice funding in the short-term to keep other projects moving forward. I would like to thank Apple Valley Mayor Rick Roelle and other SANBAG board members and staff who worked to protect the local jurisdictions.”

In the past few weeks, Supervisor Mitzelfelt worked with Mayor Roelle, the members of SANBAG policy committees, and SANBAG staff to draft a proposal that would allow the I-215 project to stay on track while finding other funds to ensure local jurisdictions got a full share.

“We have cast in stone more than \$30 million for the local jurisdictions,” said Mayor Roelle

SANBAG officials said that keeping the I-215 project moving with the federal funds could translate into approximately \$100 million in savings and other benefits, which ultimately helps the entire region.