

PRESS ADVISORY

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Redevelopment Provides Lifeline for Cherry Interchange Project

Jan. 25, 2011 —SAN BERNARDINO—On Tuesday, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13.2 million in redevelopment funds to the Cherry/I-10 interchange modernization project, which is scheduled to start construction this summer and will take about two and a half years to complete.

“The Cherry interchange simply can’t handle the thousands of cars and trucks that have to use it every day,” San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said. “We need a 21st century interchange so commuters don’t have to spend so much time stuck in traffic on Interstate 10 and on Cherry Avenue.

“Fortunately, county redevelopment funding has provided a lifeline that has kept this interchange from falling behind schedule. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be getting this project started for a year or more,” Rutherford said.

The \$76.9-million interchange project includes replacing the five-lane Cherry Avenue bridge over I-10 with an eight-lane bridge; adding a lane to all four ramps, and improvements to the Cherry Avenue intersections with Valley Boulevard and Slover Avenue. Vehicles waiting to exit at Cherry Avenue regularly stack onto the freeway, exacerbating already heavy traffic congestion. On average, about 220,000 vehicles travel on I-10 between San Bernardino and Ontario daily.

Redevelopment Funding for Cherry/I-10

In January 2008, the San Sevaire Redevelopment Area contributed \$279,000 towards environmental studies needed for the Cherry/I-10 interchange modernization project. The redevelopment area is home to the Auto Club Speedway, California Steel Industries, and dozens of other industrial and commercial businesses that utilize the Cherry Avenue/I-10 interchange.

Redevelopment was tapped for \$3.7 million in October 2008 when funding was needed to design the new interchange.

In March 2010, Supervisors allocated \$9.5 million in redevelopment dollars to purchase land needed to complete the project. At the time, the three agencies responsible for the interchange— San Bernardino County Public Works, City of Fontana, and San Bernardino Associated Governments (Sanbag) – did not have funding available to pay for the land. The agencies agreed to reimburse the redevelopment area for the advance.

On Tuesday, Supervisors allocated \$3.7 million in redevelopment funds toward construction of the interchange. Additionally, Supervisors agreed to use the \$9.5 million being paid back to the redevelopment area to the help fund the interchange construction. All total, the San Sevaire Redevelopment Area has contributed \$17. 2 million to the Cherry/I-10 interchange project.

Second District Supervisor Rutherford represents the cities of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland as well as the unincorporated communities of Crestline, Cedarpiners Park, Valley of Enchantment, San Antonio Heights, Lytle Creek, Devore, and Mt. Baldy.

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