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Bay Area Council Celebrates Governor's Restoration of Proposition 42 Funds in Budget

At Least \$260 Million for Bay Area Transportation Projects This Year

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11, 2005 – Today, Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council released the following statement regarding Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's announcement that he will restore Proposition 42 funds in his budget.

“In his ‘state of the state’ speech, Governor Schwarzenegger said that the people of California can’t get around on ‘little fairy wings,’ and today he made sure that at least they can get around on wheels - be they on a bus, a train, a bike or a car. Every person that travels from one place to another should be pleased that the Governor made good on his pledge to see that the roads and transit systems Californians need are built and maintained.

“For the Bay Area, this means at least \$260 million this year for highway projects, for public transportation, and for local county and city road projects. Proposition 42 funds were critically important for Bay Area residents and businesses. In January 2005, the Bay Area Council Poll found that residents cited transportation as the top problem facing the region. This past week, we found out that the Bay Area is the second most congested region in the entire United States, with residents stuck sitting in fumes and gripping the steering wheel in traffic for an average 73 hours each year.

“Our transportation problem in the Bay Area and California is primarily a funding problem. That is why the Bay Area Council fought so hard to have these funds restored. We have used nearly every tool available in our effort – including meetings with legislators and the Governor; soliciting more than a hundred phone calls, faxes, e-mails and letter from our members; and publishing op eds and letters to the editor. We are pleased to see that our efforts, and the efforts of groups who worked in concert with us, finally paid off.”

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Bay Area Council

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for more than 275 of the largest employers throughout the Bay Area region in promoting economic prosperity and quality of life. Jim Wunderman has served as president and CEO of the Bay Area Council since April of 2004.