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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$100 Billion in Construction Contracts Available: Inaugural California Construction Expo Visits Los Angeles

***Expo attracts crowd of more than 2,000 to L.A. Convention Center,
including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa***

Aug. 22, 2006 (LOS ANGELES) More than \$100 billion worth of upcoming construction projects were highlighted by a consortium of public agencies seeking contractors, designers and workers at the first ever California Construction Expo on Thursday, August 17. The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) together hosted the event at the Los Angeles Convention Center in downtown L.A.

The event kicked off with L.A. City Councilmember Jan Perry providing opening remarks followed by a ceremonial ribbon cutting with representatives from LACCD, LAUSD and MWD officially opening the Expo floor. Contractors, designers, construction professionals and members of the public heard directly from public agencies ranging from schools to airports throughout California about various career and contracting opportunities available.

Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor of Los Angeles, gave the keynote speech at the Expo's luncheon.

"We have an opportunity to remake this city," said Villaraigosa, stressing the importance of current and upcoming construction projects across Los Angeles as an important and critical investment for the city's future.

Workshops held throughout the day focused on various topics and construction opportunities including: (1) how to get a contracting license; (2) attracting skilled labor for construction; and (3) sustainable design and building. The exhibit hall featured more than 140 booths with vendors, industry associations and the latest innovative products. The event closed with a BBQ reception providing attendees with opportunities to network with businesses and individuals interested in construction industry.

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"We wanted to help organize the Expo to be able to have a chance to tell the construction community that we get it," said Larry H. Eisenberg, executive director of Facilities, Planning and Development for the LACCD. "We understand what it takes for construction businesses to be successful and we have organized our entire approach to construction in a manner that is responsive to the needs of large and small contractors. We need firms to bid on our projects and in return we are prepared to pay promptly, minimize the bureaucracy, and support a fair profit for quality construction."

Gilbert F. Ivey, chief administrative officer for MWD also added, "We were bowled over by the success of the Expo and by the positive responses we got from construction industry professionals who are looking forward to working with us. Without a doubt this is going to bring great benefits to both the public and private sectors."

"The Los Angeles Unified School District was pleased to co-host the Cal Con Expo," said Guy Mehula, chief facilities executive for the LAUSD. "We're committed to being the Owner of Choice and the Expo gave us an opportunity to get that word out."



ABOVE: L.A. City Councilmember Jan Perry helps VIPs from the LA Community College District, LAUSD, Metropolitan Water District and the Office of Governor Schwarzenegger cut the red ribbon to officially kick off the inaugural California Construction Expo at the LA Convention Center on August 17.

For more information on doing business with the LACCD, LAUSD or MWD please visit www.calconexpo.com.

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