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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE**

Grant Awarded for Yolo Rail Line Relocation Study

September 17, 2014

The City of Davis, along with the Cities of West Sacramento and Woodland, Yolo County and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) are excited to announce a grant award from the US Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$171,180. The grant is for technical assistance in preparing a rail line relocation study that will include an economic impact study and strategic implementation plan, including a stakeholder and public outreach component.

The multi-agency, collaborative study will analyze the economic potential of relocating the existing rail line that currently runs through center of the Cities of Davis and Woodland and extending rail service to a 900 acre industrial park in the City of Woodland and to the west side of the City of West Sacramento and the Port of West Sacramento. The study will focus on the opportunities for economic growth related to increased rail access for agribusiness and industry, redevelopment of urban corridors presently impacted by rail lines, and new sustainable employment.

"This is very exciting as our Yolo County communities work together for the betterment of our region," stated Dan Wolk, Mayor of Davis. "It enables us to assess the potential economic benefits and redevelopment opportunities that might result from the removal of the rail barriers currently dividing our cities and downtowns. The grant will also allow us to more thoroughly assess impacts from flooding that might be addressed through rail line relocation in several parts of Yolo County. Pursuing a comprehensive analysis of the enhanced economic opportunities that rail realignment may offer will allow us to create solutions that will better our Yolo cities and our region."

Beyond the potential economic opportunities arising from relocating the rail line, the relocated line will improve and increase rail safety by eliminating more than a dozen at-grade crossings in Woodland and Davis. Furthermore, the proposed rail relocation alignment will allow for the removal of the short-line rail trestle over the Yolo Bypass providing increased flood protection for the entire Central Valley.

It was during the 2013 Sacramento Metro Chamber Capital-to-Capital trip that Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA-03) encouraged the City of Davis and its regional partners to apply for this grant and he has been strongly supportive throughout the process.

"This EDA technical assistance grant will allow Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland and Yolo County to move forward with a project that has the potential to generate significant economic

development and jobs and provide numerous other benefits, including increased public safety and flood protection,” said Congressman Garamendi. “This project is a great example of regional cooperation – several government entities coming together to tackle a large economic development project that has the potential to lift the economic prospects of the entire county. I commend city and county officials on securing these funds. I look forward to continuing to partner with them as we build a regional economy that creates opportunities for hardworking Yolo County residents.”

"The federal grant awarded today is a true win for West Sacramento, Yolo County and the Sacramento region, as it will help plan for the relocation of rail lines across Yolo County that currently hinder public safety, commerce and flood protection," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "Specifically, the plan funded by this grant will help lay the foundation for further infill development in West Sacramento and other Yolo cities and improve flows through the Yolo Bypass by removing a number of rail trestles." "This project in the first step in a process to encourage needed infill development in support of the SACOG Blueprint, while providing congestion relief and create a safer environment for citizens driving, walking and riding their bikes in Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland.”

The City of Davis and its partner agencies look forward to proceeding with the study and shall be releasing an RFP for relevant professional economic development consulting services shortly.

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