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South Bay Expressway's Mitigation Program Hailed "Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative" by the Federal Highway Administration

Expressway Recognized for Enhancing Region's Natural Resources

(SAN DIEGO – June 4, 2007) – South Bay Expressway and Caltrans' Mitigation Program for State Route 125 South was recently named an Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The 10-mile Expressway, extending from SR 54 in Spring Valley through eastern Chula Vista to the SR 905 in Otay Mesa near the border crossing, was one of only 20 ecosystem initiatives chosen, nationwide. EDAW, an award-winning environmental consulting firm, developed and implemented the program on behalf of South Bay Expressway and Caltrans.

In 2002 the FHWA identified ecosystem conservation as one of three performance objectives under the agency's "vital few" goal of Environmental Streamlining and Stewardship. As a hallmark demonstration of its commitment to this goal, FHWA agreed to identify a minimum of 30 exemplary ecosystem initiatives in at least 20 States or Federal Lands Highway divisions by September 2007. The agency also developed specific criteria for selecting the initiatives.

"We're committed to building a state-of-the-art expressway that provides the best value to our customers," said Greg Hulsizer, South Bay Expressway CEO. "South Bay Expressway and our owners also have a very strong commitment to building projects that fit the environment and the needs of the communities we serve. Our \$20 million investment in the environment and this award demonstrates our commitment,"

"The South Bay Expressway mitigation program demonstrates the success of multi-agency and disciplinary collaboration," said Jacqueline Dompe, Vice President/Principal of EDAW, Inc. "It is commendable that Caltrans and South Bay Expressway are taking such a progressive approach to environmental stewardship."

(more)

"As the agency responsible for oversight of this project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proud to have this project receive such high recognition for our continuing commitment to the environment," said Laurie Berman, SR 125 South Corridor Project Manager. As with all of our projects, we have high standards in this area and it has been a wonderful opportunity to share this effort with partners who share our vision to preserve and enhance wildlife and habitat."

The South Bay Expressway mitigation program is unique for both its scope and investment:

- More than \$20 million has been spent to preserve and enhance sensitive habitat, including the purchase of 1,500 acres of native habitat for multi-species conservation.
- A comprehensive program has been developed to preserve natural wildlife habitat and corridors. This program involves the building of major long-span bridges over the Sweetwater and Otay Valley and restoring the river corridor below.
- A hallmark and scientifically-based restoration program, Johnson Canyon Open Space Preserve includes the first habitat restoration program for the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly.

About South Bay Expressway

South Bay Expressway is a 10-mile express toll road that will run from SR 54 in Spring Valley to SR 905 near the International Border Crossing. With the opening anticipated for Summer 2007, this exciting, new transportation alternative promises a fast, reliable and scenic drive, every time. The new connection will connect the growing communities across eastern Chula Vista and provide convenient access to Downtown, Sorrento Valley, I-8, I-15 North, Otay Mesa and Mexico. The construction of this first class express toll road is being made possible through an innovative public/private partnership, and is one of the first roads of its kind in California and the U.S. For more information, visit www.southbayexpressway.com.

About EDAW, Inc.

Founded in 1939, EDAW is a multidisciplinary leader in the fields of natural resources management, environmental planning, urban planning, design, and landscape architecture, with 32 offices worldwide. EDAW is an AECOM company. AECOM is a global provider of professional, technical, and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, and environmental. With more than 30,000 employees around the world, AECOM is a leader in all of the key markets that it serves. AECOM companies provide a blend of global reach, local knowledge, innovation and technical excellence in delivery solutions that enhance and sustain the world's built, natural, and social environments. AECOM serves clients in more than 60 countries and has annual revenue of approximately \$3.4 billion.