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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rod Foster, Colton: (909) 370-5051

Council Approved a Memorandum of Understanding Providing Public Benefit Improvements Totaling Approximately \$64 million

The Colton Crossing is the X in the sand located south of the I-10 Freeway, north of K Street, east of 5th Street and west of 6th Street. This crossing is shared by both rail mainlines of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific Corporation (UP). This crossing is a bottleneck that inhibits goods movement. The majority of passenger and freight movement between the Los Angeles area, Inland Empire and points to the east, north and south pass through the Colton Crossing.

The proposed Colton Crossing Project would separate the two rail mainlines and significantly enhance the flow of rail traffic at this point. Since 2008 when this project was in line for state funding the City formed a Colton Crossing Subcommittee to advance the interests of the City and mitigate the impacts of the proposed project in Colton. The Subcommittee Members are: Mayor Kelly Chastain, Mayor Pro Tem David Toro and Council Member Vincent Yzaguirre. After having had discussions with members of the BNSF and UP railroads, the Subcommittee and Colton staff drafted a Colton Crossing White Paper. This written document identified the City's concerns regarding the rail impacts within Colton and improvements needed to offset those impacts.

The unanimous City Council action at last night's meeting approved a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide a Quiet Zone and relocate rail out of a residential community. The Quiet Zone Improvements will close off H and E Street as cul-de-sacs; install four quadrant gates at Valley Boulevard and Olive Street; and, install an underpass at Laurel Street. These improvements will eliminate the need for trains to blow their horns in Colton. The rail line along 9th Street will be relocated east of Fogg Street, near M Street. Four quadrant gates will also be included in this improvement to ensure quiet zones are retained throughout the town.

"This is a project that has drawn national attention and is a major milestone for Colton," stated Mayor Kelly Chastain. "Many years of hard work and long hours have gone into making sure Colton was not forgotten in the process. The improvements outlined in this MOU represent 95% of the improvements identified by Colton's White Paper—which equates to approximately \$64 million for quality of life improvements that will benefit our citizens for many years to come".

"This is the most significant improvement in the quality of life in Colton in decades," said Council Member Vincent Yzaguirre. "The public safety improvement and elimination of noise pollution throughout our City will better the quality of life for the families of Colton."

These improvements will be delivered within 18 months of the Colton Crossing Project breaking ground.

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