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NEWS RELEASE – MARCH 3, 2009

CITY SEEKS TRANSPORTATION FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY 62 REHABILITATION PROJECT

The City of Twentynine Palms is seeking \$900,000 in appropriations from the Department of Transportation's "Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation Fund" to perform design engineering and right-of-way acquisition for a proposed Highway 62 Rehabilitation and Street Improvement Project.

The project entails approximately two miles of Highway 62 between Encelia Avenue and Split Rock Avenue, and would include pavement rehabilitation, medians, and curb, gutter, and sidewalk construction on both sides of the highway for most of the two miles.

"Highway 62 serves as the transportation backbone of the City and is also a vital pedestrian corridor," said City Manager Michael Tree, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency. "Upgrading the highway area is necessary to improve safety, drainage, and quality of life for visitors and residents. The project would help to fulfill one of the transportation goals established in the city's Redevelopment Plan."

As a match for the federal funds sought, a local contribution of approximately \$250,000 is required to fund the environmental study component of the project. City staff is recommending that funding for the study be obtained from the Capital Projects account of the Redevelopment Agency, in accordance with the agency's Five-Year Implementation Plan that specifies an agreement "to pay a match on grants for curb, gutter, and sidewalk construction along Highway 62."

The City Council will consider adopting a resolution for the project funding request at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, March 10, at 6 p.m. at Twentynine Palms City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

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