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NEWS RELEASE – OCTOBER 26, 2009

CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS RECEIVES A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS FROM SANBAG FOR A SIDEWALK PROJECT

At their October board meeting, the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) Board of Directors approved a \$245,550 grant to the City of Twentynine Palms for a new Pedestrian Sidewalk Project. The SANBAG grant is being funded from the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3, Pedestrian and Bicycle funds.

The project entails new sidewalks installed near Oasis Elementary School, running north of El Paseo Drive along Hillside Avenue and extending west into the residential neighborhood of Sun Valley Drive and Sunnyvale Drive. The proposed sidewalks are designed to increase safety in the area for residents, especially children and youth traveling to and from school, who currently have to walk in the street or navigate dirt paths adjacent to the roadway.

The SANBAG grant will also allow the City to achieve completion and linkage to a previously planned curb, gutter, and sidewalk project near the same area. In 2008, a \$438,660 grant award was received from the State's Safe Routes to School Program administered by Caltrans.

Plans for the Safe Routes project include three sites, starting with a mixed use bike path and sidewalk extending south of Oasis Elementary School and El Paseo along Split Rock Avenue to Highway 62 downtown, a route that also serves student walkers and bicycle riders from Twentynine Palms High School. The second location features a sidewalk installed across from the high school on the east side of Mesquite Springs Road, from El Paseo to Two Mile Road. A third location entails sidewalk installation on the north side of Baseline from Palm Vista Elementary School to Utah Trail.

The pedestrian sidewalk and bikeways project is expected to go out to bid in April, for a contract award in May. Construction is planned to begin in June, after school is out for the summer. For questions or more information, contact City Manager Michael Tree at City Hall, (760)367-6799.

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