

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **San Leandro Slough Bridge Will Close Major Gap in Bay Trail**

**Alameda County – California.** The City of San Leandro, in partnership with multiple agencies, is closing a critical gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail with construction of the San Leandro Bay Trail Slough Bridge, connecting Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline to the waterfront near the Oakland Airport. Construction of the 300-foot pedestrian/bicycle bridge and a 600-foot connector trail will create ten continuous miles of pathway, enabling non-motorized, active transportation options from the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland to the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.

To commemorate construction, a ground breaking ceremony will be held on July 17, 10:00 a.m. at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline. Invited speakers will include:

- Congressman Pete Stark
- Senator Ellen Corbett
- San Leandro City Councilmember Jim Prola
- Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland International Airport and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission

“This is a very important project for San Leandro and the region,” said San Leandro Mayor Tony Santos. “I am personally very pleased and grateful that so many agencies in the Bay

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Area and the State can work together so effectively on a project such as this. We are very proud of the San Leandro shoreline, and now even more people will be able to reach it without getting into their cars.” The Slough Bridge project is expected to be completed by April 2010.

Funds for the \$3.3 million project include funding from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), the Coastal Conservancy (via the Association of Bay Area Government’s (ABAG) Bay Trail funding program), the City of San Leandro, East Bay Regional Park District, Federal (SAFETEA-LU and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality programs), and the State Recreational Trails Program.

Alameda County has joined a national 2010 Campaign that seeks to create a new federal program as part of the next federal transportation bill to empower dozens of communities to make focused investments in infrastructure and programs that can shift automobile trips to walking, biking and transit. The goal of this effort in Alameda County is to:

***ADVANCE Pedestrian & Bicycle Access to Transit by...***

- Making it easy and safe to get to transit by walking or biking, which will at the same time increase transit ridership.

***CONNECT Communities with Urban Greenways by...***

- Filling the gaps in existing inter-jurisdictional multi-use trails, like the stellar Bay Trail and the Iron Horse Trail to *connect* people to jobs, shopping and schools, along with nature.
- Building a new East Bay Greenway through the heart of the county which *connects* communities to each other and to transit, work, and schools, and provides a new green space for communities sorely lacking it.

***INSPIRE the Community to Walk and Bike by...***

- Expanding the current successful Safe Routes to Schools program to *inspire* even more students to become more active.
- Develop a new Safe Routes for Seniors program to *inspire* seniors to feel empowered to walk, and even bike, especially as they transition out of driving.

The San Leandro Slough Bridge Project helps move Active Transportation forward by connecting communities with urban greenways and by filling in a critical gap in the Bay Trail.

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