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Joint Press Release

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO AND THOMAS ENTERPRISES WIN RAILYARDS CEQA CHALLENGE

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly issued a decisive ruling that the City of Sacramento and its Redevelopment Agency complied in all respects with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the downtown Sacramento Railyards project. The parties to this CEQA litigation received the court's ruling on November 12, 2009.

Downtown Plaza LLC and three individuals represented by William Kopper sued the City, Agency and Thomas Enterprises challenging the adequacy of the two Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) prepared for the project.

City Attorney Eileen Teichert appreciated the judge's careful consideration of the complicated legal issues and the hundreds of thousands of pages of materials that were filed. She was pleased that the court found that the City and Agency complied with the law. "Environmental review of development projects must be thorough and transparent so the City Council and the public are well-informed before land use changes are approved."

In response to hearing of the court's decision, Mayor Kevin Johnson said "This is good news. We can now focus on the task of creating jobs and developing an area that will play a vital

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Mayor Kevin Johnson
District 1: Ray Tretheway
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role in making Sacramento a world class city." Suheil Totah, Vice President of Thomas Enterprises remarked that "We are extremely pleased with the judge's decision. This is another important milestone for the Railyards' effort. We are thrilled to continue to move forward to create jobs and do our part to make Sacramento a tier one region."

Diepenbrock Harrison represented Thomas Enterprises throughout the entitlements and subsequent CEQA litigation. The City and Redevelopment Agency were represented in the litigation by Sheppard Mullin and Stoel Rives.

In December 2007, the Sacramento City Council approved the Railyards development project and in May 2008, allocated redevelopment funding for certain improvements related to the development. For more information about the Railyards, visit www.sacramentorailyards.com and www.cityofsacramento.org/projects/railyards.

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