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ULI NATIONAL PANEL ISSUES RAILYARDS DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Envisions Railyards as Center of New Transit District

Sacramento, Calif.— A national panel of experts brought to Sacramento by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) confirmed today that the 240-acre downtown Sacramento Railyards development site has significant long-term development potential, and that it presents an exciting and unique opportunity for the City to become a more attractive urban destination.

The panel, formed as part of the ULI's [Daniel Rose Center](#) for Public Leadership in Land Use fellowship program, also made several recommendations about how to move the long-term project forward. The panel's goal was to identify the actions that will position the Railyards to attract a significant share of regional development, and what activities can be an early catalyst for new investment at the site.

The panel's recommendations, presented this morning to the public at the Sacramento City Council chambers, include:

- Recognizing that development at the site will occur in an incremental fashion, similar to redevelopment at a similar Railyards site in downtown Denver.
- Building on the initial \$225 million infrastructure investment by establishing better connections between the site and other City neighborhoods, including downtown, Midtown and the River District.
- Consideration of developing a transit district instead of a single facility to accommodate planned new transportation services, including high-speed rail, a light-rail extension and streetcars.
- Ensuring adequate open space and parks that showcase the river and the central shops.
- Identifying and actively pursuing potential catalytic projects.

Mayor Kevin Johnson
District 1: Angelique Ashby
District 2: Sandy Sheedy
District 3: Steve Cohn
District 4: Robert King Fong
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- Holding a variety of low-cost interim uses inside and outside of the historic Railyards buildings, including arts and cultural events, sports and wellness programs and educational activities, which will get area residents accustomed to visiting the previously inaccessible area.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for us. If we look at the opportunity in manageable chunks, as the ULI panel has recommended, the long-term goal is achievable,” said Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, who attended the presentation and played the lead role in bringing the Rose program to Sacramento. “We are thankful to have had the ULI panel here, which will help us significantly in moving the Railyards development forward.”

“The Railyards development is Sacramento’s last frontier and it’s a tremendous opportunity for the City to become a local and regional draw,” said Panel Co-Chair Andre Brumfield, principal, Urban Design and Planning for AECOM in Chicago.

The panel also included:

- Con Howe, managing director of CityView’s Los Angeles Fund
- Robert Lane, senior fellow at the Regional Plan Association in New York
- Frank Cannon, partner at the Union Station Neighborhood Company in Denver
- Mami Hara, urban design principal with Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, in Philadelphia
- Marlene Gafrick, director at the Planning and Development Department, in Houston
- Danny Pleasant, director at the Department of Transportation, Charlotte
- Marja Williams, deputy director at the Planning and Development Department in Detroit

Sacramento, Charlotte, Detroit and Houston are the only four cities chosen to participate in the highly competitive program for 2010-2011.

The panelists will continue to work with the City over the next several months to support implementation of its recommendations and related Railyards development plans.

In addition to Mayor Johnson, the Sacramento Rose Fellowship team includes Assistant City Manager John Dangberg, Sacramento Area Council of Governments Executive Director Mike McKeever and John Hodgson, founder and president of The Hodgson Company and previous chair of the ULI Sacramento District Council.

The presentation will be available for download on the [ULI Web site](#) by Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

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