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For Immediate Release:

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## **Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces I-880 Connector to Re-Open in Time for Monday Morning Commute**

Exactly one week to the day that a connector ramp in the MacArthur Maze was closed due to a fiery tanker-truck crash, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced that it will reopen in time for the Monday morning commute.

"Seven days ago, I visited the site and saw the destruction of the I-580 overpass and a heavily damaged I-880 connector," said Gov. Schwarzenegger. "I want to thank Caltrans and their contractors for working around the clock to get this done, our local partners for all their help and most of all, Bay Area commuters for their continued patience. More work still needs to be done and we will work day and night until the rest of the MacArthur Maze has been repaired."

By 5 a.m. both lanes of the westbound Interstate 80 to southbound I-880 connector will be open for morning commuters. Caltrans and its contractor, ACC West Coast, did final preparations Sunday for the opening.

While intermittent closures of the lower ramp will be required after tomorrow's opening, those closures will occur outside commute hours and the ramp will remain open during the day.

Attention turns now to replacing the section of Interstate 580 that collapsed on to the lower deck of the I-80 to I-880 connector ramp on Sunday, April 29. The state has set a benchmark for reopening the I-80 to I-580 connector by June 27 but the contract is incentive-based and will pay the contractor \$200,000 for every day the road is opened earlier than that date.

Bids for reconstruction of the upper deck will be opened tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the Caltrans headquarters office at 1120 N Street in Sacramento to select a contractor. The contract will be awarded Monday evening and work will begin Tuesday. The bid opening can be seen live on the Internet at the following URL: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/bidopening>

In preparation for Monday's bid opening, Caltrans held a mandatory walk through of the I-580 job site on Saturday with potential contractors. In addition, 120 people attended a mandatory small business outreach meeting.

Since the crash, Caltrans and its contractors have worked around-the-clock under an emergency declaration by the governor to restore the structure.

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