



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** May 20, 2009  
**District:** 4, Oakland  
**Contact:** Ben Edokpayi  
**Phone:** (510) 622 0120

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CALTRANS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NEW RIO VISTA FERRY

**Solano** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) today announced the award of a contract to build a new Real McCoy (Ryer Island Ferry). The \$4.3 million contract was awarded to Nicols Brothers, a boat building company located in Freeland, Washington.

Caltrans anticipates having the new vessel in operation by summer 2010. Upon delivery the new vessel will continue to provide non-stop service from State Route 84 in Rio Vista to Ryer Island in Solano County.

“Because of the historical importance of the Real McCoy and the crucial role of water transportation for goods, emergency services and the people of the area, getting a new ferry has always been a top priority for Caltrans,” said Bijan Sartipi, Caltrans District 4 Director. “For more than 63 years the Real McCoy has diligently been in year-round service for locals and visitors to the area. Caltrans is pleased that we can continue to provide this non-stop service with a more modern and environmentally-friendly vessel,” Sartipi added.

The current Real McCoy is a double-ended propeller driven vessel and has been in service since 1946. Daily traffic on the Real McCoy currently averages about 700 Average Daily Traffic (ADT).

The new vessel will be similar in form and function, while at the same time updating the design to the latest safety and marine regulations standards. Passenger capacity for each trip on the new vessel will be 100. It will also be able to transport eight vehicles or haul a legal load.

The Real McCoy and the J-Mack cable ferry service Ryer Island, a farming and resort community with a population of approximately 400 people. The only other access to the island is through the Miner Slough Bridge.

The new vessel will ensure dependable and reliable ferry service year-round for Ryer Island residents and other patrons.

###

