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## **Goods on the Move in California: Stakeholders to Assist in Action Plan Development**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH) and Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) today released Phase I and first steps of Phase II of its Goods Movement Action Plan.

Phase I focuses on the “why” and “what” of California’s goods movement needs. Also released are first steps for Phase II, which outlines the “how, when, and who” elements of the Action Plan.

“The movement of goods throughout this state needs a transportation network to efficiently distribute products to consumers and businesses,” said BTH Secretary Sunne McPeak. “Gov. Schwarzenegger wants action that will support California’s future mobility needs. Improving infrastructure for goods movement relieves congestion for everyone.”

Shipments of cargo containers are poised to double over the next 15 years; and perhaps, triple over the next 20 years to serve California’s own needs and to support activities for the rest of the nation. During the same period, diesel emissions and regional air quality impacts from goods movement activity are expected to double unless concerted actions are taken at the federal, state, and local levels to turn that trend around.

“We absolutely need to protect the public’s health and the livability of communities affected by California’s burgeoning trade growth,” said Cal/EPA Secretary Alan Lloyd. “Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to making environmental protection a key element of our Goods Movement Action Plan.”

Regional congestion around California’s seaports already has forced numerous national and international companies to identify other points-of-entry for cargo bound elsewhere in the U.S., and as a result, direct containers away from California ports.

A Cabinet Work Group, led by Secretaries McPeak and Lloyd, is responsible for development of the Goods Movement Action Plan. Stakeholder-based work groups will facilitate plan preparation with members from the transportation industry, local and regional governments, and impacted communities. Other interests that will be represented include business, labor, and environmental groups.

Phase II work groups will address infrastructure, environmental impact mitigation, innovative and alternative financing, homeland security and public safety, and community impact mitigation and workforce development. The product of the collective effort will be a business plan that details high priority infrastructure projects, a comprehensive environmental mitigation strategy for improving air quality and the livability of communities adjacent to major goods movement facilities and corridors, and a finance plan.

Making these improvements will cost money. Because many of the goods entering California ports head to destinations beyond the state’s borders, the first place to look for financial assistance with these investments will be the federal government.

The Action Plan document can be accessed at: [www.bth.ca.gov](http://www.bth.ca.gov) or at [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

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