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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Groundbreaking set for Measure R-funded Road 80 project

DINUBA – Improvements to Road 80 in Dinuba will be celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 14.

The event will be held at the Louis Ruiz Park in Dinuba, located at the southwest corner of Surabian Drive and Alta Avenue (Road 80). It is expected to include presentations by Dinuba Mayor Mike Smith, Supervisor Steve Worthley, Supervisor Pete Vander Poel and Tom Barcellos, chairman of the Measure R Citizens' Oversight Committee.

The project will widen Road 80 from Avenue 384 to Avenue 416 (El Monte Way) and will include improvements to intersections, upgrades to existing at-grade railroad crossings and the creation of a center median.

Emmett's Excavation of Clovis was the successful bidder, with a bid of \$14 million, approximately \$2.5 million less than estimated.

Measure R has made possible about \$200 million in transportation projects in less than three years including major regional projects such as Road 80 from Visalia to Dinuba; Avenue 416 in Dinuba; Road 108 connecting Visalia and Tulare; grade separations at Betty Drive in Visalia and Cartmill Avenue in Tulare; and the Ben Maddox overcrossing in Visalia.

Local projects have included road resurfacing, traffic signal construction and synchronization, pothole repairs and sidewalks.

Clean Air projects have included bike paths and extensive enhancements to bus systems throughout Tulare County.

“In this calendar year alone, we have Ben Maddox and Mooney Boulevard nearing completion, and Road 108, Cartmill and Betty Drive grade separations and Road 80

under construction,” noted Ted Smalley, Executive Director of the Tulare County Association of Governments.

“Much of this would not have been possible without Measure R, and the support of the people of Tulare County,” Smalley added.

Projects anticipated in the next year include improvements to Scranton and Indiana and State Route 190 in Porterville; improvements to Caldwell Avenue in Visalia; and the grade separation at Bardsley Avenue and State Route 99 in Tulare.

For information on Measure R, call the Tulare County Association of Governments at 624-7274 or visit tcmeasurer.com.