



News from

## Interim Mayor Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

### NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: Sept. 6, 2013

Contact: Alex Roth, 619-228-3253

### **Interim Mayor Gloria Reaffirms Support for Convention Center Expansion Project is Vital to Keeping Comic-Con, Creating Jobs, Boosting Economy**

*SAN DIEGO, CA (Sept. 6, 2013)* – Interim Mayor Todd Gloria reaffirmed his support Friday for the San Diego Convention Center expansion plan, a project that is vital to creating jobs, boosting the local economy and retaining Comic-Con and other major events.

Gloria joined other local leaders – including Comic-Con’s spokesperson – in praising the expansion plan, which is the product of years of study, analysis and public debate. The California Coastal Commission is scheduled to consider the proposal next month. Delaying the project could be catastrophic to the city’s efforts to compete with other cities vying for the nation’s most elite and lucrative conventions.

**“This plan is the result of an exhaustive process that has included input from countless stakeholders, most importantly the public,”** Gloria said. **“There is an overwhelming consensus that this project is the right way to go. As it currently stands, our Convention Center is forced to turn away a year’s worth of business annually because there simply isn’t enough capacity. And if we don’t expand, we run the very serious risk of losing those events we already have. Comic-Con is the most obvious example.”**

Other community leaders agreed Friday on the critical importance of moving full-speed ahead with the project. Among other things, the expansion would create 7,000 permanent new jobs and more than 3,000 construction jobs; generate an additional \$13 million in city tax revenues and have an estimated annual economic impact of nearly \$700 million.

“We need to move forward with the current Convention Center expansion plan,” said Jerry Sanders, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The plan is just a few weeks away from a vote by the Coastal Commission and already has an approved financing plan. It also represents 11,000 new jobs – nearly 7,000 of which are permanent jobs.”

Mark Cafferty, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., said the current expansion plan “remains a top priority for San Diego’s business community.”

Cafferty added: “Numerous industry and trade groups have weighed in to express unified and broad-reaching support. The Chargers are also a top priority and we want to support them in any way we can. But right now, we have to keep our focus and attention on getting the current plan across the goal line and approved by the Coastal Commission.”

Comic-Con spokesperson David Glanzer said, “It is our understanding that the proposed expansion to the Convention Center would allow for securing larger conventions, as well as the ability to hold several smaller concurrent events that could benefit the local economy. It is for this reason that we still believe an expanded convention facility is a good proposition for San Diego.”

###