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*Passionately and responsibly working to
improve the quality of life for all San Diegans*

NEWS RELEASE

Faulconer Lauds Colleagues for Two Votes

*Vote to increase CCDC CAP along with vote to establish largest quiet zone in U.S.
are good moves for all of San Diego*

June 22, 2010

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SAN DIEGO: Today, behind City Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer's leadership, the City Council took decisive action on two issues that will positively impact all San Diegans.

The first is the initial step needed to increase the tax increment limit – also known as the CAP – of the Centre City Development Corporation. CCDC is responsible for overseeing redevelopment in Downtown San Diego. Money for CCDC projects is generated from increased property tax as a result of new development.

The City Council voted unanimously today to hire consultants to complete blight studies to determine if the CAP can be lifted. The studies are expected to take up to 18 months.

“Raising CCDC's CAP is important because public investment spurs private development – restaurants, hotels, etc. – which funnels tax revenue to the City's general fund for police, fire and other services,” Faulconer said, noting CCDC has been instrumental in creating a 1 to 8.4 public/private investment ratio.

In the past 35 years, according to CCDC, there has been \$1.54 billion in public investment Downtown, compared to \$12.8 billion in private investment. Annually, Downtown generates \$191.4 million in tax revenue for the City, including \$50.3 million in hotel tax.

“Without increasing the CAP numerous projects – including affordable housing developments, new parks and fire stations and the revitalization of C Street – would either become a burden of the City's general fund or never see the light of day,” Faulconer said.

The City Council also voted 6-2 today to establish the largest quiet zone in the U.S. when it agreed to overhaul 13 Downtown rail crossings by November 2011. Federal law requires train conductors to blow their horns to announce their presence. The horns can easily be heard throughout Downtown as the trains pass through 13 rail crossings between Laurel and Park – disrupting tourists and locals throughout the night. Under the newly approved quiet zone, train conductors will use their horns only when needed because the intersections will be safer.

The City is losing hotel tax because numerous Downtown hotels have trouble renting some rooms because of the train noise, which is among the most frustrating issues for numerous Downtown residents.

“I fought hard for this change because of the benefits to Downtown residents and tourists,” Faulconer said.