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PRESS RELEASE

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Measure L Receives “Clean” Audits and Measure L Oversight Committee Issues Annual Report of Compliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Modesto, CA) – The first Measure L Independent Audits and Measure L Oversight Committee Annual Report of Compliance were received and accepted by the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Policy Board at its meeting last Wednesday night.

Measure L is the Transportation Ordinance and Expenditure Plan that Stanislaus County voters approved in November 2016. The measure raised the sales tax in Stanislaus County on April 1, 2017, by one-half cent for a period of 25 years to improve local streets and roads, improve connectivity, and reduce congestion.

The Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm of Hudson Henderson & Company Inc. completed the first annual independent auditor’s reports on Measure L for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. All agencies receiving Measure L funding received an unmodified or “clean” opinion on the financial statements. A detailed presentation was provided to the StanCOG Measure L Oversight Committee at its June 4, 2019, meeting and to the StanCOG Policy Board on Wednesday. For details on Measure L and each audit, please visit <http://StanislausMeasureL.com>.

“Hudson Henderson & Company, Inc. issued audit reports for all agencies that received Measure L funds in FY 2017/18 with an unmodified opinion on the financial statements with no findings,” said Brian Henderson, Principal.

In accordance with the requirements of the Measure L Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, the Measure L Oversight Committee was established to review the annual independent fiscal audits of the expenditure of tax funds and issue an annual report on its findings to the StanCOG Policy Board.

Craig Lewis, Chair of the Measure L Oversight Committee stated, “Based on our review of the FY 2017/18 independent fiscal audits of the Measure L funds, the Measure L Oversight Committee hereby finds the expenditure of Measure L funds to be in compliance with the Measure L Ordinance and Expenditure Plan.”

“We are pleased that the stringent policies and procedures that the StanCOG Policy Board put in place have been adhered to by our local agencies,” StanCOG Executive Director Rosa De León Park said.

Karen Kincy, StanCOG's Manager of Financial Services, added, "StanCOG staff takes pride in administering the Measure L policies and procedures as established by the StanCOG Policy Board."

Jeremy Young, City of Hughson Mayor and Chair of the StanCOG Policy Board said, "We are pleased to receive confirmation from Certified Public Accountants and from our oversight committee, as well as from the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury (SCCGJ) earlier this year, that taxpayer dollars are being administered according to the provisions of Measure L."

In a special sales tax review of city and county road improvements, it was stated that, "SCCGJ found through investigation that both StanCOG and local jurisdictions are implementing Measure L as promised to Stanislaus County residents."

It was further stated in a rare commendation by the SCCGJ, "The Stanislaus Council of Governments is to be commended for the development of a transportation special tax program of which StanCOG, and all of Stanislaus County, can be proud. Measure L is an efficient program that operates like a well-oiled machine and constitutes an important economic benefit to the county."

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Attachment:

Measure L Oversight Committee Annual Report of Compliance

About StanCOG

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as designated by the federal government, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) as designated by the State of California, and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) which administers the local Measure L sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements in the Stanislaus region. StanCOG is a council of city and county governments comprised of the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, and Stanislaus County, that was established in 1971 to address regional transportation issues. StanCOG provides the forum that brings local mayors, city council members and county supervisors together to work on regional transportation issues in a setting that promotes the involvement of the public in the planning process for the Stanislaus region.