



## PRESS RELEASE

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **Worker Assistance Accounts Created for Two More Injured Bridge Workers**

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) has created two new worker assistance accounts for construction workers injured in the Oct. 9 bridge lowering accident in Corona – bringing the total to six accounts established for workers. The accident occurred over E. Grand Boulevard as part of the 91 Freeway Project. Of the nine workers hospitalized that night, five have been released.

New accounts were put into place for Alex Paez and Eric Rodarte. During the past week, accounts also were established for Jarell Boyd, Michael Richey, James Chaffee, Jr., and Gilberto Ortiz,

Injured crew members are receiving workers' compensation benefits, which pay for medical expenses and wages. However, the worker assistance accounts provide additional financial support to the workers and their families and can be used at their discretion.

Donations can be made only to the six accounts that have been established. If additional accounts are created, the public will have the option to donate to those accounts. Donations can be made at [www.transportationfoundation.org/donate](http://www.transportationfoundation.org/donate). Donors should use the "Comments" box to indicate how they would like their contribution to be designated.

All contributions deposited into a worker's account will be distributed to a contact person identified by the family. There are no limitations on how the money may be used by the family of each injured worker. CTF will match donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$5,000 for each worker. Donations are not tax deductible.

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CTF is a charitable transportation organization that supports California's transportation community with various programs, including financial assistance to highway and transportation workers injured on the job.

The CTF worked with the Riverside County Transportation Commission and Atkinson/Walsh Joint Venture, the 91 Project's design-build contractor, to establish the worker accounts. All of the injured workers are employed by the joint venture.

"Many concerned citizens have asked how they can show their support for these workers and their families," said Anne Mayer, Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, which is the lead agency for the project. "We appreciate the public's generosity and encourage additional contributions to these accounts."

The cause of the bridge lowering accident is being investigated by Caltrans, Cal/OSHA and Washington DC-based KCE Structural Engineers. The length of the various investigations are still unknown but are expected to yield potential causes for the accident and determine the construction integrity and long-term safety of the bridge.

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