



PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 10, 2015

Contact: John Standiford, Deputy Executive Director
(951) 453-8249 – Mobile
Eliza Echevarria Perez, Public Affairs Manager
(951) 235-9564 – Mobile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worker Assistance Account Created for Eighth Injured Bridge Worker

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) has created an eighth assistance account for one of the workers injured in the Oct. 9 bridge lowering accident that occurred during construction of the Riverside County Transportation Commission's 91 Project in Corona.

The Troy Shope Assistance Fund is the newest account. Other accounts have been established for Dion Anthony Barrera, Jarell Boyd, James Chaffee, Jr., Gilberto Ortiz, Alex Paez, Michael Richey and Eric Rodarte during the past three weeks. Of the nine workers hospitalized that night, six have been released.

Injured crew members are continuing to receive workers' compensation benefits, which fund medical expenses and wages. The assistance accounts provide additional financial support to the workers and their families, who can use the funds at their discretion.

RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer thanked the community for its continuing support. "Thank you to the Corona community and the transportation industry for your generosity," she said. "These contributions make a difference to the workers and their families."

Donations can be made only to the eight accounts that are in place, but if additional accounts are created, the public can donate to those accounts. To make a contribution, please go to www.transportationfoundation.org/donate. Please use the "Comments" box to indicate how the donation should be designated.

-MORE-

Worker Assistance Account Established for Eighth Injured Worker
Page 2 of 2

All contributions 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 worker. CTF will match donations dollar-for-dollar, up to \$5,000 for each worker. Donations are not tax deductible.

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

The CTF has been working 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.

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 is still unknown. Crews currently are removing the bridge deck, which will be rebuilt to ensure the long-term durability of the bridge.

###