



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worker Assistance Account Created for Seventh Injured Bridge Worker

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

A total of seven accounts have been created for workers, including the newest account for Dion Anthony Barrera. Of the nine workers hospitalized that night, six have been released. Accounts have been established during the past three weeks for Jarell Boyd, James Chaffee, Jr., Gilberto Ortiz, Alex Paez, Michael Richey and Eric Rodarte.

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, who can use the funds at their discretion.

Donations can be made only to the seven accounts that have been established. If additional accounts are created, the public will have the option to donate to those accounts. To donate, please go to www.transportationfoundation.org/donate. Please use the "Comments" box to indicate how the contribution should 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 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.

"Members of the Corona community and the widespread transportation industry are opening their hearts and wallets for these workers," said RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer. "As we approach the holiday season, the donations to these workers will be of great help to them and their families."

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.

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