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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sutter County Awarded Funds To Widen Butte House Road

Sutter County was notified today that it will receive \$800,000 in federal Highway Safety Improvement Funds to make improvements to a section of Butte House Road where two fatal traffic accidents occurred this winter.

The California Department of Transportation notified Director of Public Works Douglas Gault of the award in an e-mail received this afternoon.

Mr. Gault attributed the successful award to “the great work of two of our engineers, Neal Hay and James Walton.” The engineers prepared the grant application upon which the award was based.

In December 2007, a fatal accident on the stretch of Butte House Road between Humphreys Road and East Butte Road claimed the life of a Sutter County woman. In February, a second fatal accident at almost the exact location as the first accident claimed the lives of two other Sutter County women.

A comprehensive engineering and traffic survey by the Sutter County Public Works Department concluded that the stretch of Butte House Road where the accidents occurred met all safety and engineering standards used by the state of California for highway construction and traffic control.

However, the survey report also recommended widening shoulders and other enhanced safety improvements such as signage and shoulder rumble strips. The grant funds will allow the county to implement all of the report recommendations.

In addition, upon the recommendation of Supervisor Jim Whiteaker, the board approved the expenditure of \$20,000 for the placement of speed detection signs that

allow drivers to know how fast they are going as they approach an s-curve on Butte House Road.

The majority of the work involves shoulder widening to a full width shoulder with rumble strips on both reverse curves on Butte House Road between Humphrey and Township roads. The grant requires local matching funds of about 10 percent. Following design work, construction may occur between the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009.

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