

Center Brings World-Class Venue to Pomona

POMONA, CA, Feb 18

Today, Fairplex in Pomona held the groundbreaking ceremony for its new Fairplex Conference Center, a high-tech, 85,000 square foot venue suited for trade shows, corporate meetings and regional associations. The ceremony marked the beginning of a one-year long construction project with remarks from Congressman David Dreier and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.

"The new Fairplex Conference Center will be a great asset to the community as it will support the Fairplex mission to provide hospitality and community service to the greater LA and Inland Empire area," said Jim Henwood, Fairplex President and CEO. "The Conference Center will enhance existing spaces by serving as a much-needed meeting facility for the L.A. County Fair as well as surrounding business and philanthropic communities."

Expected to generate nearly 500 jobs during construction and nearly 300 full-time, sustainable jobs during annual day-to-day operations, the new Center will have a strong economic impact for the area with additional sales and occupancy tax related benefits for the City. The new Center demonstrates Fairplex's business reinvestment model by continuing to provide public benefit to the surrounding community through new and secondary business opportunities.

"The Conference Center will bring in businesses and associations from across the world, and create much-needed jobs here in Pomona. This is a great opportunity for chambers of commerce, businesses and entrepreneurs to network and bring opportunities to the area," said Congresswoman Napolitano. "I am proud to have supported this project for over a decade, and look forward to the prosperity that it will bring to Pomona and the surrounding areas for years to come."

"This new Fairplex Conference Center is a wonderful addition to the Fairplex complex, which as a multi-purpose facility has been used for events ranging from trade shows to remote voting," said Congressman Dreier. "Fairplex has long been a strong contributor and supporter of the neighboring community and with this new Center it will also be bringing new jobs to the community throughout the construction process and on-going day-to-day operations."

Joining Congressman Dreier at the ceremony were Congresswoman Napolitano, Angie Castro from Supervisor Gloria Molina's office, and Mayor of Pomona, Elliott Rothman. With speeches from supporters of the \$30 million project, the groundbreaking ceremony was followed by a lunch reception where guests were able to mingle and discuss the impact of the new Center.

-more-

Featuring the latest in flexibility and scalability with large seminar rooms, additional break out rooms and interactive teleconferencing, the Center will provide everything needed to put on a world-class event. Able to attract and serve a wide range of audiences and events, the new Center will expand Fairplex's Monday through Friday business year round.

Incorporating the conversion of an existing 33,600 square foot exhibit building with the development of a new 50,000 square foot structure, the new Conference Center will enhance the existing Art Deco qualities of Fairplex grounds as well as the surrounding park-like setting. Adopting a code of sustainability, the new Center will also be International Association of Conference Centers (I.A.C.C.) and LEED certified. Sustainable building strategies along with green project design and operations will increase efficiency in many areas and provide for an eco-friendly conferencing experience.

Fairplex is the home of the L.A. County Fair, as well as quality year-round educational, business, multi-cultural and entertainment events, which provide enrichment and enjoyment for Southern California's adults, youth and families. Please visit www.fairplex.com for more information.

Media Contact:

Leslie Galerne

lgalerne@rogerspr.com

310-552-4104