

2003 Press Releases

News Advisory

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CONTACT:

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“Terror On The Tracks – 9-11”

“OnTrac Trade Impact Study: National Economic Significance of Rail Capacity and Homeland Security on the Alameda Corridor East”

What: “A 9-11 Embargoed Study of Economic Impacts of Terrorism on Trade Corridors”

When: Thursday, September 11, 2003 (12:01 A.M.)

Who:

Christopher Becker, Executive Director, OnTrac, JPA

Wally Baker, Senior Vice President, LAEDC

Gregory Freeman, Director of Public Policy, LAEDC

Elsa Lee, Counter Terrorism Expert, Advantage-SCI, LLC

K. Jack Riley, Director, RAND Public Safety and Justice Program

Where: Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Downtown Los Angeles, CA

Background:

According to Executive Order EO 13010, Critical Infrastructure Protection, “certain national infrastructures are so vital that their incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on the defense or economic security of the United States.” They include telecommunications, electrical power systems, gas and oil storage and transportation, banking and finance, transportation, water supply systems, emergency services (including medical, police, fire, and rescue), and continuity of government.

This report focuses on the transportation infrastructure, specifically on the connections between the economy, homeland **security**, trade corridors, and freight rail through the prism of Southern California’s freight rail network. This document is intended to become a part of the Orange North American Trade Rail Access Corridor (OnTrac) Trade Impact Study effort and the projects EIR/EIS report. The primary question is to determine if the OnTrac rail project in Placentia, California is a project of national security and economic significance. In particular, it addresses:

- Is a terrorism attack on the rail trade corridor system possible and likely?

- What kind of impact would an attack on the Southern California east/west bound rail trade corridor system (which includes the OnTrac rail project) have on the US economy?
- What steps can be taken at the national, state and local level to mitigate the threat to, and potential consequences of, an attack on the Southern California rail trade corridor?

[Editors: For an advanced copy of the Embargoed Economic Impact of Terrorism on Trade Corridors Study, interviews and digital photos please call George McQuade 818.340.5300 or 818.618.9229 or Aida Mayo, 818.6187.9226]

The LAEDC is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to attract, retain and expand business and jobs in the region. It provides economic and industry forecasts as well as strategic consulting in trade, infrastructure, logistic and land use. The LAEDC Business Assistance Program works one-on-one with businesses throughout the county. Visit www.laedc.org .

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