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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visalia Announces Fee Reduction Stimulus Program

VISALIA – The City of Visalia has reduced the cost of doing business in an effort to support new home construction and commercial and industrial development that leads to job creation.

The plan was developed under the direction of the Visalia City Council, and approved in June.

Plan highlights:

- 15% reduction in fees related to transportation impact, park and waterways acquisition fees;
- 25% reduction in Transportation Impact Fees for Downtown Visalia;
- Rebate of Transient Occupancy Taxes to organizations that bring large events to Visalia (1,000 room nights) before Dec. 31, 2011.
- Transportation Fee credit for qualifying infill projects;
- New tiered fee structure for gas station Transportation Impact Fees that “recognizes” pass-by trips and underutilized gas pumps during non-peak hours;
- Streamlined permitting process, including outsourcing of plan check when needed, at no additional cost to the developer;
- 5-year financing of fees for commercial projects that have fees in excess of \$10,000 and are completed by Dec. 31, 2011;
- Deferral of impact fees until close of escrow or Dec. 31, 2011, whichever comes first, for projects with fees greater than \$10,000;
- Waiver of the 6.5% Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index fee increase of 2009 for another year;

For example, as a result of these fee reductions:

- A **homebuilder could save \$1,018** on the cost of a traditional, single-family home (1,800 square feet).
- An **industrial business (100,000 square feet) could save \$18,342** on the cost to build a new warehouse.

- A new **restaurant (5,000 square feet) in the downtown district could save \$13,944.**

The program is the result of more than six months of work involving private enterprise, city staff, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce and the Visalia Economic Development Corporation.

“Visalia is a great place to do business but we know that these are very difficult times,” noted Mayor Bob Link, owner of a downtown Visalia clothing store. “With this program in place, we hope to show business and industry that Visalia is serious about being a pro-business community. We’re rolling out the welcome mat by helping businesses save money.”

Visalia, population 126,000, is located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, east of Highway 99 and Highway 198. It is the county seat for Tulare County, serving as the home to county government, the medical and finance industries and the heart of the world’s second leading ag-producing county in the nation.

The Visalia Industrial Park offers overnight delivery to all of California and much of the western U.S., wastewater treatment capacity, zoned land and existing industrial buildings.

For information, call Nancy Lockwood of the Visalia Economic Development Corporation, 559-733-3737 or Glenn Morris of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, 559-734-5876.