

Underpass sculpture at Richards lights connection to River District

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Travelers passing underneath the Interstate 5 underpass on Richards Boulevard can now view a meandering deep blue lighted architectural feature, marking the northern gateway to downtown Sacramento through the River District.

Created by city of Sacramento senior architect Gregory Taylor and senior engineer Sampol Chapusripitak, the lighted concrete sculpture greets motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling to and from the River District, an 830-acre central city neighborhood transitioning into a mixed-use, transit-oriented area.

Dubbed "Confluence," it's a remarkable feature of the I-5 and Richards Boulevard sidewalk and street improvement project.

The lighted architectural feature fills the I-5 underpass in blue, green and purple hues. Featuring 112 feet of molded concrete waves along each side of the underpass walls, the lighted display represents the interplay of the nearby American and Sacramento rivers, according to the city.

The \$10 million project to improve traffic and pedestrian access at Richards Boulevard and I-5 features widened freeway off-ramps to reduce traffic back-ups at Richards Boulevard, Bercut Drive



Courtesy of city of Sacramento

"Confluence" is a lighted concrete sculpture at the Interstate 5 underpass at Richards Boulevard. Created by city of Sacramento senior architect Gregory Taylor and senior engineer Sampol Chapusripitak, the architectural feature greets motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians traveling to and from the River District, an 830-acre central city neighborhood transitioning into a mixed-use, transit-oriented area.

and Jiboom Street.

The project, started in July 2011, was completed just as Township 9 in the River District got financing for a mixed-use housing project, and just prior to Sacramento Regional Transit District opening a light-rail station on the Green Line. Bike lanes, sidewalks and landscaping were also added as part of the interchange project.

While this phase of work is complete, it is considered interim because more work is expected after 2020, as development in the River District and railyard progresses.