



## THE RIVER DISTRICT

### **Light Sculpture Creates Welcome Surprise In Gateway to Downtown Through the River District**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – July 5, 2012 -- Situated just 1,500 feet from the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers and a mile and a half from the State Capitol, a recently completed transportation project has transformed a 1960s industrial style underpass into the northern gateway to downtown Sacramento through Sacramento's most up and coming business district.

This was accomplished partially through the traditional widening of freeway off and on ramps, streets and sidewalks, and the addition of bike lanes and planter strips.

What makes the Interstate-5 and Richards Boulevard Street and Sidewalk Improvement project unique is the lighted architectural feature that creates an element of surprise and slowed speeds as drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians come in and out of the River District, the 830-acre central city neighborhood now transitioning into a mixed use, transit oriented area.

Created by City of Sacramento senior architect Gregory Taylor and senior engineer Sampol Chapusripitak, travelers passing underneath the I-5 underpass on Richards Boulevard are calmed by a meandering gentle deep blue light sculpture.

The light shifts in hue, from a deep blue to teal to an intense purple and casts light and shadows along a 112 foot long section of molded concrete waves along each side of the underpass walls.

Located near where the calm waters of the American River and the dramatic currents of the Sacramento River come together, “Confluence” represents the interplay of the two rivers as small ripples give way to chaotic waves.

Confluence and the street widening, off and on ramp, sidewalk, bike lane improvements are part of the infrastructure improvements being made to accommodate the increased development going on in the River District. The improvements are also part of the city’s urban goals to build “complete streets,” streets that support all modes of travel and to create a series of gateways into the city.

The cost for operating Confluence is about \$400 a year, approximately the cost of operating four regular street lights. The light output is equivalent to approximately 16 street lights (about four times a standard street light).

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[The River District](#), an 830-acre central city district, is quickly transitioning from a light industrial, low-intensity commercial district into one of Sacramento’s up and coming vibrant, mixed use, transit oriented communities. The historic commercial

area will combine an eclectic mix of residential, office and commercial land uses designed to take advantage of multi-modal transportation options, riverfront views and open space. [www.riverdistrict.net](http://www.riverdistrict.net), (916) 321-5599.

**For More Information, Contact**

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