

## Mariposa to receive \$200 million from Recovery Act

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Nogales, Arizona** — The Office of Congressman Raul Grijalva confirmed today that the Nogales West (commonly known as Mariposa) port of entry will receive approximately \$200 million to pay for the construction phase of the Reconfiguration Project. The Reconfiguration Project, lead by the General Services Administration (GSA), will more than double the throughput capacity for inspection of both goods and people and will incorporate the latest in design and technology to create a state of the art facility.

“This is the culmination of four years of work,” stated James B. Manson, Chairman of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority. This project is critical to the long-term growth and sustainability of our binational community. This will make Nogales more competitive, our region more prosperous and the nation much safer.”

The Port Authority has spearheaded efforts to build the FAST lanes at Mariposa back in 2005 and lead efforts to secure the \$13.7 million in 2007 to pay for the design phase of the Reconfiguration project. “Our work with all of our board members and the local, state, federal and binational partners has allowed us to reach this point. We are traveling to Mexico on April 7 and will be participating in a binational meeting focused on the technical aspects of this project. With this announcement the meeting takes on a new level of interest and truly a sense of urgency,” added Manson.

Mariposa is Arizona’s largest gateway for international trade with close to 300,000 trucks, 450,000 pedestrians and over 1.2 million cars per year. Arizona State University Researchers forecast this volume to double by 2025. Mariposa is also the largest entry point for fresh produce from Mexico, to the tune of over 4 billion pounds each year, representing close to 45% of the fresh produce consumed in the US during the winter months.

The Port Authority is a non-profit group dedicated to the improvement of the international ports of entry at Nogales, to fostering the long-term growth and economic development of the region and improving the quality of life for the residents of the region.