

Elk Grove Citizen ONLINE

NEWS

Connector importance outlined

By Keith Gebers - Citizen Staff Writer

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Members attending the July 31 Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce luncheon heard an update on the Elk Grove El Dorado Connector Project.

Tom Zlotkowski, executive director of the Capital Southeast Connector JPA, said the connector is not only still alive but vital to the future of the south Sacramento area. Zlotkowski said the project has been in the concept and study phase since the 1980s and it is hoped construction can begin in 2012.

"The Connector will increase commerce in the south area," said Zlotkowski.

He pointed out that the project also includes parts of El Dorado County.

Zlotkowski stated 78 percent of voters OK'd the project in 2007 and when completed, possibly in the early 2020s will connect communities throughout the area.

He said engineering is still under way on the project, which will aid commuters from community to community.

"We are also working on the protection of wildlife in areas where the connector will be located," he said.

Zlotkowski said the Capital Southeast Connector JPA has been working closely with Sacramento Area Council of Local Government (SACOG) on creation of the project and that funding for the process is still being studied.

Local funds will be the primary source of the project but he stated federal funds might also be sought.

"Many decisions will still have to be made," said Zlotkowski.

He commented that many areas are important to the connector, including the Grant Line Road connector as well as the fast developing Sheldon area.

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Tom Zlotkowski told Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce members the Capital Southeast Connector project would benefit the entire area.

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