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**Gold Coast Transit News Release
For Immediate Release**

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**Supervisor John Zaragoza Elected Chair of Gold Coast Transit
Board of Directors**

OXNARD, CA – The Board of Directors of Gold Coast Transit has elected Ventura County Supervisor John Zaragoza to serve as the Board’s chair for 2010. The Board also elected Councilmember Maricela Morales of Port Hueneme as the vice-chair for the coming year.

Supervisor Zaragoza succeeds Dr. Thomas Holden of Oxnard who just completed his first term as chair of the transit Board. Dr. Holden will continue to serve on the GCT Board and on the Oxnard City Council as the city’s elected Mayor.

GCT General Manager Deborah Linehan credited Dr. Holden for leading the transit agency through the most difficult budget cycle in the agency’s 36-year history.

“Dr. Holden is a very astute budget analyst and money manager. He worked closely with our senior staff to cut an already lean budget and preserve the bus service that carries the largest number of riders. We were fortunate to have him in the chairmanship during a budget year that presented unprecedented challenges due to the state’s elimination of transit assistance funds and the shortfall in revenues that the cities and county use to pay GCT for bus and paratransit service,” Linehan said.

Supervisor Zaragoza has served on the GCT Board for just one year, having been elected to the County Board of Supervisors in 2008 and assuming office in January 2009. Prior to election to the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Zaragoza served on the Oxnard City



Council for 12 years. Before his election to the City Council in 1996, Supervisor Zaragoza worked for the City of Oxnard for over 30 years, spending the last 15 years as the Solid Waste Division Head. Early in his career, Mr. Zaragoza was a bus driver for Oxnard City Lines, a predecessor agency to Gold Coast Transit. During his time on the City Council, and now the County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Zaragoza has served on various Boards and Commissions throughout the county in addition to a number of community and professional organizations. In recognition of his extensive community involvement, Supervisor Zaragoza has received the Kiwanian of the Year award and the El Concilio Latino Business Man of the Year. Mr. Zaragoza is a graduate of the University of La Verne and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.

Councilmember Maricela Morales of the City of Port Hueneme has also served for just a year on the Gold Coast Transit Board of Directors, replacing the late Toni Young, a long-time GCT board member and past chair. Ms. Morales is associate executive director of the local non-profit organization CAUSE. She has committed the last 15 years to community service and remains active serving on a number of committees of various organizations throughout the county. Ms. Morales is an alcohol problem prevention specialist and a Certified Nursing Assistant. She is a graduate of Stanford University and a Masters degree candidate at Pacifica Graduate Institute.



Gold Coast Transit is a joint powers agency of the Cities of Oxnard, Ventura, Port Hueneme, Ojai, and the County of Ventura. GCT provides scheduled bus service on 15 routes in western Ventura County and provides curb-to-curb paratransit service for people with disabilities and senior citizens who cannot use the scheduled bus service. In fiscal year 2008-09 GCT provided 3.7 million trips to transit passengers.

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