



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2010

Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith

c. 801-913-9748

Mayors Becker, Corroon and Real Salt Lake Kick Off Regional Athletic Complex

Salt Lake City Invites All to Join in Celebrating Sports Facilities and Jordan River Restoration Plan

SALT LAKE CITY –Mayor Ralph Becker today announced a public kickoff event to be held Friday, November 5, at the future site of the Regional Athletic Complex at 2199 North and 1912 West. Joined by Real Salt Lake founder Dave Checketts, Head Coach Jason Kreis and team players, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, Salt Lake City Council Members, and the community at large, the event will mark the next step in the design and construction of the Complex for soccer and baseball competitions and team use.

After the voter-approved bond of 2003, Salt Lake City moved forward with plans for the Regional Athletic Complex. Approved by the City Council earlier this year, plans for the site now include a restoration plan to improve 44 acres of riparian habitat along the Jordan River. Current design plans for phase one of the complex include 15 competition-quality soccer fields, one championship field, seven lighted fields, over 600 trees, administration and maintenance facilities, and a Nature Preserve along the riparian corridor of the Jordan River.

“Friday marks a milestone in moving forward with this project the residents of Salt Lake City voted for seven years ago,” said Mayor Ralph Becker. “The Complex represents a partnership between the City, the County, the State, and Real Salt Lake that will serve youth and families and at the same time result in an unprecedented restoration effort of the adjacent section of the Jordan River.”

“Real Salt Lake is pleased to make this gift to the youth soccer programs in a community where the sport is so incredibly valued,” said Real Salt Lake founder Dave Checketts. “We applaud Mayor Becker for his continued dedication to seeing through the plans for the Complex and look forward to watching the soccer stars of tomorrow begin their journey here in Salt Lake City.”

In keeping with guiding principles developed in the Envision Utah-led Blueprint Jordan River project, the City’s restoration plan will improve riparian and wetland plants and wildlife habitat while buffering the adjacent recreational area and protecting Jordan River water quality. The Complex incorporates ecologically sensitive design standards, including properly selected lighting to minimize impact to

wildlife, on-site storm water management, and efficient irrigation. The City will enhance the site's fragmented wetlands and will also meet or exceed FEMA flood plain regulations.

"The County is excited to see the day when our youth can enjoy the amenities and beautiful setting this site will offer," said Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. "Friday will be a day for all youth sports enthusiasts to celebrate."

About the Regional Athletic Complex

Salt Lake City voters passed a \$15 million bond in 2003 for the construction of a Regional Athletic Complex to provide soccer and baseball fields for recreation and competition purposes. The use of public funds was contingent upon securing a \$7.5 million match from private sources, which was fulfilled by the Major League Soccer organization Real Salt Lake in 2007. The City estimates the project will be complete by fall of 2011.

Regional Athletic Complex FAQs, project details, timelines, and progress updates can be found online at www.slcgov.com/RAC. A map to the RAC can be found at www.slcgov.com/RACmap.

###