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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 8, 2012**

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**Mammoth Discovery on Transbay Jobsite Now on Display at California Academy of Sciences**

*Columbian mammoth tooth discovered in San Francisco  
is now on display alongside other Ice Age specimens*

**San Francisco, Calif. (November 8, 2012)** – The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) announced today the opening of a California Academy of Sciences display that includes the Columbian mammoth tooth recently discovered on the Transbay Transit Center construction site.

The fossil tooth was discovered by crane operator, Brandon Valasik, on the Transbay Transit Center jobsite in downtown San Francisco on September 10, 2012. It was found 110 feet below street level (100 feet below sea level) and was immediately recognized by Valasik as something unique. The TJPA donated the tooth to the California Academy of Sciences on September 20, where it was cleaned, preserved, and added to the research fossil collection.

“Finding the mammoth tooth on our construction site was one of the most exciting and memorable historical events of our project. We are simultaneously preserving our history while building for the future.” said TJPA Executive Director Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan. “We applaud the California Academy of Sciences for placing the mammoth tooth on display for the public to view and learn about downtown San Francisco’s natural history.”

The tooth is an upper left molar of a Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) and was discovered in two pieces; the front third of the tooth is still missing. The tooth belonged to a mammoth species that lived between 8,000 and 150,000 years ago and was approximately 12-14 feet tall, weighing between five and 10 tons.

“We would like to thank the Transbay Joint Powers Authority for their donation of the specimen to ensure its preservation and its availability to the public and scientists through the California Academy of Sciences,” said Alison Brown, the Academy’s Chief of Staff.

The Columbian mammoth had mostly smooth skin, like its closest living relative, the modern Asian elephant. Well-preserved Columbian mammoths have been found in the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.

During the time of the Columbian mammoth, the area around what is now San Francisco was dominated by woodlands that were drained by several large rivers and many creeks. A rich fauna, including saber-toothed cats, horses, wolves, camels, bison and mastodons, as well as mammoths, lived here.

The tooth will be on display for the next several months at the California Academy of Sciences in the Academy's Naturalist Center. For more information visit, [www.transbaycenter.org](http://www.transbaycenter.org)