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### **Robinson's 1st Rooftop Helipad to be Built on Auto Dealership**

**Torrance, CA** — Approximately one year ago, Robinson Helicopter Company announced plans to aggressively promote the use of small, lightweight helipads on the rooftops of industrial buildings. And now, several such helipads are beginning the approval process, and construction of the first one is expected to commence shortly on the roof of the 16,658-square-foot service center of 'Honda of Santa Ana.'

Ron Vinci, owner of Honda of Santa Ana, wants to fly his R44 between his home in San Diego and his various businesses in Southern California, including his Honda dealership in Orange County. Vinci accepted Robinson's offer to receive a helipad and related approval services in exchange for purchasing a new R44 Raven helicopter. Nine months ago, Heliport Coordinator Jen McSkimming and Engineer Dan Roth – both Robinson employees – began the construction approval process to comply with the regulations of the City of Santa Ana, the Orange County Land Use Commission, the State of California, and the FAA.

Vinci's service center is a concrete tilt-up structure standing twenty-three feet tall in a commercially zoned area. The property is bordered by a ten-lane freeway and a commercial railroad track, and is directly under the approach path for Santa Ana's John Wayne Airport, which virtually eliminated the potential for any noise-related objections that might have been raised by neighbors or governmental agencies. The pad passed the FAA airspace study in August 2001, a county Airport Land Use commission vote in September, city Planning Review in October, a public hearing by the city's Planning Commission in November, and City Council approval in December. Approval from the State of California was just granted, and now the only outstanding item – which is expected imminently – is a building permit for stairs to access the roof hatch. Final inspections by the municipal and state authorities should be completed in March or April 2002.

For information on procedures in the United States for helipad application and approval, see Robinson's 'Helipad News – Winter 2002,' or contact Jen McSkimming by telephone at (310) 539-0508, ext. 235 or by email at [jmcskimming@robinsonheli.com](mailto:jmcskimming@robinsonheli.com). Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business and commercial operations. For more information about Robinson, visit on-line at <http://www.robinsonheli.com>.

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