



2001 Gateway, Suite 101E
San Jose, CA 95110
PH | 408.501.7864
FAX | 408.501.7861
www.realcoalition.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2012

LUCY DUNN
Co-Chair
Orange County Business Council

CARL GUARDINO
Co-Chair
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

RON ADDINGTON
Business Council of San Joaquin County

BILL ALLEN
Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation

RUBEN BARRALES
San Diego Chamber of Commerce

LINDA BEST
Contra Costa Council

MARK CAFFERTY
San Diego Regional Economic
Development Corporation

KAREN ENGEL
East Bay Economic Development Alliance

STEVE FALK
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

PAUL GRANILLO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

RANDY GORDON
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

BILLIE GREER
Southern California Leadership
Council

JOE HARABURDA
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce

CYNTHIA KURTZ
San Gabriel Valley
Economic Partnership

MATTHEW MAHOOD
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of
Commerce

CYNTHIA MURRAY
North Bay Leadership Council

ROGER NIELLO
Sacramento Metro Chamber of
Commerce

AL SMITH
Greater Fresno Area Chamber
of Commerce

GARY TOEBBEN
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

JIM WUNDERMAN
Bay Area Council

BUSINESS LEADERS COMMEND GOVERNOR FOR CUTTING RED TAPE FOR NEW HOSPITALS

Today, the Regional Economic Association Leaders (R.E.A.L.) Coalition, an association of California's 20 most influential business and economic development entities, issued the following press statement:

"The Regional Economic Association Leaders (R.E.A.L.) Coalition, an association of California's 20 most influential business and economic development entities, representing more than 11,000 employers providing more than 3 million jobs, commends Governor Brown, along with his Senior Jobs Advisor Mike Rossi, for moving so decisively to unclog the billions of dollars in stalled hospital projects throughout California by addressing the administrative restrictions and staffing issues at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

Specifically, the R.E.A.L. Coalition thanks Governor Brown for taking the following three actions, which will allow OSHPD to commit more staff and resources towards directly addressing the backlog of hospital construction project approvals: first, lifting the hiring freeze at OSHPD's Facility Development Division (FDD); second, lifting most of the travel restrictions at FDD; and finally, lifting the mandatory monthly Personal Leave Program day beginning on April 1, 2012. Taken together, these three actions, combined with the actions taken by the Governor last spring to reduce the number of furlough days from three to one and to allow the agency to fill 26 vacant positions, represent a huge victory for our state's \$60 billion dollar hospital sector, employing over 380,000 workers directly.

The R.E.A.L. Coalition also wishes to express its gratitude to Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Senate Health Committee Chair Ed Hernandez for their steadfast leadership and firm support in what has been an ongoing, year-long, coordinated effort by the R.E.A.L. Coalition to resolve this backlog of construction projects and the hundreds of thousands of jobs, especially in our state's decimated construction sector, that these projects would create. In early 2011, Senators Steinberg and Hernandez penned a joint letter to Human Services Secretary Diana Dooley calling for the OSHPD hiring freeze lift. To read the full letter, visit: <http://bit.ly/IT8dfn>

The undersigned members of the R.E.A.L. Coalition stand ready to work with the Governor and a bipartisan group of California legislators as well as with our partners in the business, labor and environmental communities to seek out common-sense, rational solutions, such as moving other critical infrastructure projects through the review and approval process more quickly, and ensure that these measures are considered, adopted and implemented in a way that reinvigorates our economy, creates more and better jobs, and promotes innovative solutions that capitalize on California's economic strengths and leading industry sectors."

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino
President and CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Lucy Dunn
President & CEO
Orange County Business Council

Bill Allen
President & CEO
Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation

Ron Addington
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President & CEO
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Executive Director
East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Steve Falk
President & CEO
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Randy Gordon
President & CEO
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

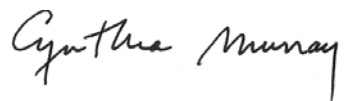
Paul Granillo
President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

Billie Greer
President & CEO
Southern California Leadership Council

Joseph J. Haraburda
President & CEO
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce

Cynthia Kurtz
President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Matthew Mahood
President & CEO
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of
Commerce



Cynthia Murray
President & CEO
North Bay Leadership Council



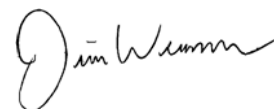
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