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Governor Schwarzenegger Earns High Approval Rating in Bay Area, According to the Bay Area Council's *Bay Area Poll*

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13, 2005 — Fifty-five percent of Bay Area residents approve of the way Governor Schwarzenegger is handling his job, despite the fact that only 35 percent of Bay Area voters cast ballots to recall his predecessor nearly a year ago, according to results of the 2004 *Bay Area Poll* completed at the end of November and released today by the Bay Area Council. Even among Bay Area Democrats, Gov. Schwarzenegger enjoys a 43 percent approval rating, and a 51 percent approval rating with non-partisan or "decline to state" voters.

While the governor is popular, many Bay Area residents do not think he understands or is very sympathetic to the concerns of the region's 6.8 million residents. More than a third, or 34 percent, said he is either "not at all" or "only a little" interested in the region's concerns. Another 50 percent think he shows "some" interest. This is noteworthy because residents are increasingly "patriotic" to the Bay Area, with 82 percent of respondents identifying themselves very strongly (44 percent) or somewhat strongly (38 percent) as a citizen of the Bay Area, holding shared values and concerns with other residents throughout the region. In 1989, 76 percent of residents felt this way, and less intensely (with 34 percent saying "very strongly" and 42 percent saying somewhat strongly).

Perhaps due to regional fealty, nearly half (47 percent) of those surveyed said their state legislator did a better job representing their interests than the governor (29 percent) did. Residents also indicated that if the governor's position differed from that of leaders in the legislature, 42 percent would support the legislative leaders and 29 percent would support the governor.

"Schwarzenegger has worked hard to get California back on track, and Bay Area residents clearly recognize his leadership in this regard," said Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. "But, that does not diminish the perception voters have about the role that our local state legislators play in solving the region's biggest problems as revealed by the *Bay Area Poll* - transportation, the economy and housing. Solving our region's great challenges will require working both with the governor and state legislators."

Added Wunderman, "It should be noted that Gov. Schwarzenegger has made substantial strides to reach out to the Bay Area, opening a Bay Area office led by Barbara Kaufman, and personally meeting with Bay Area leaders, including the Bay Area Council."

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About the *Bay Area Poll*

A total of 600 residents of the nine-county Bay Area were surveyed by Field Research Corporation during the period of November 18 -24, 2004. Survey respondents were selected using a random probability sampling technique that gives all residents with telephones (listed or not) an equal

chance of being selected for the survey. The sample was stratified to obtain representative samples in each of six Bay Area regions: Alameda County, Contra Costa County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County and the North Bay counties of Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma. After the completion of interviewing, the sample was weighted to conform to actual population estimates of the nine-county Bay Area. Findings are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

About the Bay Area Council

The Bay Area Council established the *Bay Area Poll* in 1980. Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for more than 275 major employers throughout the Bay Area region in promoting economic prosperity and quality of life. Jim Wunderman became the president and CEO of the Bay Area Council in April 2004.