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## **Bay Area Council Releases Statement on Bay Bridge Bill Signing by Governor Schwarzenegger**

**OAKLAND, Ca., July 18, 2005** – Today, Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council, and an attendee of the bill signing ceremony in Oakland, released the following statement regarding Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s signing of the Bay Bridge financing bill, AB 144.

“Today ends the latest and hopefully final battle over the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Of course, this doesn’t just mark the end of another political battle, today should also be viewed as a sign that in California we can still work together to create magnificent structures that inspire humanity and remind us of our better natures.

“There are many lessons to learn from this still incomplete project, but chief among them is that delay is the enemy of this bridge. Few examples prove, with such flawless clarity, that time equals money.

“Therefore – to verbalize the collective frustration in the Bay Area and statewide – let’s erect this bridge with all haste before the Big One strikes.

“I congratulate Governor Schwarzenegger and Senate President pro Tem Don Perata for reaching a deal on this project in the interest of moving forward. The resolution of the seemingly intractable Bay Bridge fiasco inevitably raises the prospect of reaching compromises on other major concerns in California.

“In the Bay Area, with the Bay Bridge behind us, we can finally move on to the more important issues surrounding transportation in our region, such as repairing and expanding our transportation system to meet the region’s growing needs. The Bay Area Council looks forward to driving this agenda with the support of key government leaders.”

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### **Bay Area Council**

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council ([www.bayareacouncil.org](http://www.bayareacouncil.org)) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for more than 275 of the largest employers throughout the Bay Area region in promoting economic prosperity and quality of life. Jim Wunderman has served as president and CEO of the Bay Area Council since April of 2004.