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BAY AREA COUNCIL APPLAUDS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE ON SENATE BILL-375

SAN FRANCISCO, September 30, 2008 — Today the Bay Area Council put out the following statement attributable to Jim Wunderman, President & CEO of the Bay Area Council, regarding Senate Bill 375:

“No region of the state will be more impacted, nor benefit more from SB-375 than the Bay Area.

“In recent years, Bay Area leaders have expended herculean efforts to shift momentum on our region’s growth from suburban sprawl to a more compact, urban model. For a region that values open spaces, plus clean air and less cars – yet expecting 1.4 million new residents in the next 20 years – it is the only way to go. The passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act only added further urgency to the charge. Despite best efforts, our region’s leaders have lacked a real tool to drive the required change.

“SB-375 is the very tool we need to change our region’s growth model, and it comes not a moment too soon.

“SB-375 operates at the nexus of transportation, housing and the environment and finally binds the three together. While this connection is intuitive to Bay Area and California residents, our government structures do not support it. SB-375 is the path to that governmental harmony.

“SB 375 is the holy grail of sustainable growth in California in the future. It is the result of two years of arduous negotiation by the Council and coalition partners – and frankly this is the product of more than two decades of pushing by the Bay Area Council presidents and members. We offer profound thanks to Senator Steinberg for his rock-solid commitment to create a compromise that all major parties could accept. We thank Governor Schwarzenegger for agreeing with hundreds of Bay Area CEOs who also supported this monumental bill.”

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About the Bay Area Council

The Bay Area Council is a business-sponsored, public-policy advocacy organization for the nine-county Bay Area. The Council proactively advocates for a strong economy, a vital business environment, and a better quality of life for everyone who lives here. Founded in 1945, as a way for the region’s business community and like-minded individuals to concentrate and coordinate their efforts, the Bay Area Council is widely respected by elected officials, policy makers and other civic leaders as the voice of Bay Area business. Today, more than 275 of the largest employers in the region support the Bay Area Council and offer their CEO or top executive as a member. Our members employ more than 500,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.