

WEEKLY FLASH

CalPERS CEO, Latino Caucus Chair at BAC Conference

More than 200 people attended the second annual Bay Area Capital Connections conference last Friday at San Jose City Hall. Capital Connections works to provide urban entrepreneurs with access to capital with an intensive one-day introduction to the financial resources and management tools needed to take these companies to the next level. This year the focus was on Hispanic-owned or -led companies, following last year's successful event for African American entrepreneurs. [Fred Buenrostro](#), the CEO of CalPERS, served as a keynote speaker (*pictured right, top*) explaining his personal passion to support urban entrepreneurs and how the massive pension fund seeks "under-saturated" markets for investments, of which urban California settings are a perfect example. [Assemblyman Joe Coto](#), the chair of California's Latino Caucus, told the audience (*right, bottom*) that Hispanics represent both a fast-growing and increasingly prominent market, as well as political force. Attendees heard from more than 20 of the Bay Area's top experts about financing, team-building, market strategy development, acquisitions, partnerships, and other related topics. The conference was put together by the Council's "Family of Funds" in partnership with the Alliance for Community Development. Next year's conference will focus on inner-city Asian entrepreneurs.



Transportation Committee Hosts Secretary Dale Bonner

Paula Downey, President of AAA of Northern California chaired the Transportation Committee meeting this week featuring Governor Schwarzenegger's Secretary of [Business Transportation and Housing](#), Dale Bonner. The purpose was to discuss goods movement infrastructure, public-private partnerships, and the continuing distribution of Proposition 1B transportation money. Regarding goods movement, several attendees pointed out the needs and opportunities in the Bay Area, in particular with the Port of Oakland. Unlike other ports on the West Coast that have little room to expand capacity, the Port of Oakland could double or triple its capacity if the state addresses some [rail choke points](#), such as between Oakland and Martinez, and through Donner Pass, where the tunnels do not currently allow double stacked containers. Secretary Bonner explained his plan to get goods movement funding into the Governor's 2008 budget, and asked for the Council's support to get the process moving as fast as possible.



Article of the Week

[This op ed in today's San Francisco Chronicle](#) argues that California must allow public-private partnerships. It is by Governors Davis, Deukmejian, and Wilson, with Jim Wunderman.

Quote of the Week

"*Nobody does disasters better than California.*" - R. David Paulison, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the [Washington Post](#).

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