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Alameda County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District

For Immediate Release
Press Release

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East Bay Economic Development Alliance Celebrates 20 Years of Collaboration



Photo (from left to right): East Bay EDA Executive Director Karen Engel, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and County Administrator Susan Muranishi

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EDA), the largest business group of its kind in the East Bay, celebrated its 20th Anniversary in Oakland on Thursday, December 2. The group spotlighted two decades of public-private collaborations and the East Bay Indicators Report, which highlighted the innovative industries that will help the region pull through the Great Recession.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson has been Chair of the organization for the past 15 years. Carson reflected that “The organization was founded based on the need to bring together leaders from our diverse community to solve major challenges that directly and indirectly affect us in the East Bay, the Bay Area Region and Northern California.”

EDA has helped meet many of those challenges with creative solutions to retain businesses and create jobs.

In the 1990s, one of the organization’s first successes was securing \$258 million in federal funding for a dredging project that deepened the channels leading to the Port of Oakland. By bringing together diverse groups of environmentalists, business interests, local governments and fishing interests, the EDA was able to forge an agreement that protected wildlife and at the same time allowed for newer container ships to enter the port.

In the late 1990s, the food processing industry was facing potential plant closures and lay-offs. Industry leaders came together with members of EDA, regulators and representatives from East Bay MUD to

fashion a plan to increase efficiency in the areas of water and utility usage. EDA's successful advocacy helped to stave off job loss and prevented the shuttering of local plants.

Since 1992, East Bay EDA has brought to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties nearly \$200 million in industrial development bond monies to help open new businesses and increase the competitive opportunities for organizations in the region. The bonds are estimated to have created 11,730 jobs. More recently, EDA has helped connect former NUMMI employees with employment services and opportunities for retraining.

In addition to reflecting upon past achievements, EDA also released its 2010 East Bay Indicators Report yesterday. The report conveys a number of sobering statistics—including that the real median household income decreased by nearly \$2000 from 2008 to 2009—but also provided some rays of hope. Nonprofit arts and culture expenditures have soared in the last ten years, reaching almost a quarter of a billion dollars, which contributes to a vibrant creative economy and creates desirable communities in which to live and do business.

To view a full copy of the report, please visit:

http://ebcf.org/docs/2010/East_Bay_Indicators_2010_12_10.pdf

ABOUT EAST BAY EDA

The East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), located in Oakland, California, is a public-private partnership founded in 1990 to serve the San Francisco East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties). The East Bay EDA's mission is to establish the region as a world-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs.

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