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**Local Business Demonstrates How Enterprise Zone Helps to
Encourage Economic Investment, Create Jobs and Restore Its Community**

(Long Beach, Calif.) Legislators and Senior Administration officials gathered at Redbarn Pet Products in Long Beach to highlight the economic benefits of the State's Enterprise Zone Program and commemorate the Governor's signature of AB 1550, which strengthens the Program's effectiveness. Since taking office Governor Schwarzenegger implemented legislation to designate three new zones and enhance the State's capacity for job creation. California currently has 42 Enterprise Zones that offer economic incentives to businesses if they locate or expand within a designated geographic area.

"The California Enterprise Zone Program gives communities a chance to develop their economic potential, encourage entrepreneurship and improve their quality of life," said Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, Sunne Wright McPeak.

"With state and local incentives to stimulate business growth, Enterprise Zones are part of this Administration's ongoing commitment to increase the number of jobs in our state. "

Redbarn Pet Products has 125 employees, its own 2,000 square foot laboratory for product development and testing, and has been named to *Inc.* magazine's Inner City 100 for six years in a row (2001-2006). The Inner City 100 program recognizes fast growing urban businesses that thrive in challenging business environments.

State Assembly Members Juan Arambula and Betty Karnette, who authored AB 1550, joined host legislator Senator Alan Lowenthal to mark the signing of the legislation which makes changes to provisions of State law to strengthen the Program's effectiveness.

"Our 15-year Enterprise Zone has really set the standard in California," said Mayor Bob Foster. "The Enterprise Zone has been a significant economic development tool to help create and retain jobs in Long Beach."

"Enterprise Zones transform and enhance California communities by reducing unemployment and poverty rates, raising income levels of residents and workers, and creating long-term economic stability by diversifying a community's mix of commercial and industrial firms," said California Department of Housing and Community Development Director Lynn Jacobs. "The Governor's support of the Enterprise Zone Program offers communities better opportunities for a more prosperous future."

HCD provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. The Department also supports increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing and works to improve the state's housing conditions and the health and safety of its residents. As the lead housing department, HCD is part of the state Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. For further information, please contact:

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