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## Governor Schwarzenegger's Continued Commitment To California's Small Businesses

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**Mr. Sam Bell**  
Director of Quality  
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**"Small businesses drive our economy ... and small businesses will drive our recovery during this very difficult time."** (Gov. Schwarzenegger, 11/18/08)

Governor Schwarzenegger knows that California's more than 3.5 million small businesses are the backbone of our economy, which is why he has taken significant action over the course of his administration to ensure they have the tools to succeed in California. On May 27th the Governor spoke at the California Small Business Day 2009 event to discuss the trials facing small businesses during this global recession and what California is doing to help, as well as what state government is doing to cut back and sacrifice just like every California business is being forced to do. Below are some of the Governor's major actions to support California's small businesses:



### The SMA Team Supporting Your Needs:

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### Reforming Worker's Compensation

**In 2004, the Governor honored his campaign promise to reform California's workers compensation system – which has saved California businesses \$50 billion in five years.** (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Workers' Compensation Legislation," [Press Release](#), 4/19/04)

### Ensuring Small Businesses Receive Their Fair Share of State Contracts

**In 2006, the Governor issued an executive order reaffirming California's commitment to 25 percent small business participation in state contracts - California has surpassed that goal every year since.** (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Gov. Schwarzenegger Hosts Roundtable With Women Business Executives In Bakersfield, Takes Steps To Further Assist Small Businesses In California," [Press Release](#), 3/29/06)

**Last week, the Governor took first-in-the-nation action to ensure that small businesses have the ability to take advantage of billions of dollars in highway funding, including Recovery Act funds.** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help California small businesses bid on construction projects. (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Small Businesses Gain Increased Opportunity to Compete for Caltrans Contracts," [Press Release](#), 5/21/09)

- This partnership, which will help qualified small businesses access bond guarantees for highway and local street projects, including \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding, was one of the top ten recommendations at the Governor's Conference on Small Business & Entrepreneurship held last year.

### Building Up Small Businesses in a Global Recession

**In a global recession that affects us all, the Governor fought to include a strong economic stimulus package in the February budget to help small businesses.** The legislature adopted the Governor's proposals, which include the following:

- **A permanent elective single sales factor.** This will level the tax playing field for California businesses and encourage companies to keep jobs here, expand here, and relocate to here by allowing companies to choose to weigh only sales made in a state – not property or payroll – to determine corporate taxes owed.
- **"New Hire" tax credit.** This temporary tax incentive will allow California employers that began 2009 with 20 or fewer employees to claim a \$3,000 income tax credit for each new, full-time employee they hire. This is estimated to save small businesses \$330 million in 2009-10.
- **Employee Schedule Flexibility.** This will benefit both small

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business employers and employees by making it easier to work alternative schedules such as a 4-day-per-week, 10-hour day schedule without overtime.

### **Governor's Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**

**In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger held the first-ever Governor's Conference on Small Business and Entrepreneurship – empowering small businesses by giving them a direct dialogue with state government.** This conference gave California's small business leaders a unique opportunity to share their views on how they think the state can best help ensure their continued success and growth in California. *(Gov. Schwarzenegger, "Gov. Schwarzenegger Addresses First-Ever Conference on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Launches Global Entrepreneurship Week," [Press Release](#), 11/18/08)*

- The two day conference resulted in the development of a series of policy objectives designed to address the most important issues facing California small businesses. Since the conference, the Governor's Office has been actively working to implement the most important policies and provide small businesses the necessary tools they need to prosper and grow the California economy.

### **Appointing a Small Business Advocate**

**In 2007, the Governor appointed Marty Keller as his a Small Business Advocate to advise on issues affecting California's small business community and promote policies to encourage the growth of more small businesses in the state.** *(Gov. Schwarzenegger, "Governor Schwarzenegger Announces Appointments," [Press Release](#), 5/2/07)*

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