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CONTACT: Jessica McLeish
949.631.1045
jessica@dmpublicrelations.com

San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board elects new Chair, Vice Chair

B. Joan Gibson Accountants Consultant John Gibson named chairman, Phil Cothran of Cothran State Farm Insurance named vice chair

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (February 11, 2009) --The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board announced that John Gibson and Phil Cothran have been elected as its new Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Gibson and Cothran were nominated by a committee of the Workforce Investment Board and elected to their positions by the full board.

“This year it is more important than ever for our county’s Workforce Investment Board to identify growing industry sectors in our county and help equip our residents to move into those careers,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt. “We are working as a team with the Workforce Investment Board to serve the residents and businesses of our county to see them through this challenging economy.”

Gibson has served on the Workforce Investment Board for four years and was appointed to the board by Supervisor Paul Biane. He is a 20-year veteran of the accounting and finance industry and specializes in strategic planning to structure businesses for long-term profitability.

“The Workforce Investment Board has effectively enhanced the skills of our County’s workforce and has helped connect local businesses with the employees they need,” said Second District Supervisor Paul Biane. “The Board is charged with helping our local residents find employment and helping keep our businesses stable at a challenging time, and I am confident they will be creative and persistent in developing workforce programs that make a difference in this county.”

Cothran is a past chairman of the Workforce Investment Board and has been a board member for 10 years. He is the owner of Cothran State Farm Insurance in Fontana. His civic and business affiliations include serving as a member of the National Association of Workforce Boards.

“We are happy to elect a chair and vice chair of John’s and Phil’s caliber, knowledge and expertise,” said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board. “As volunteers appointed by the Board of Supervisors to carry out workforce policy and direct funding throughout the county, we appreciate the experience that John and Phil bring to the post.”

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About the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It strives to create a strong, vibrant economy by developing the county's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The SBCoWIB, through the county's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the county's Employment Resource Centers and Business Resource Centers. The ERCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the BRCs support and provide services to the county's businesses including employee recruitment.

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