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Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County appoints Mark Dowling to board

*Dowling to assist in training workforce to support the
economic development of the region*

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (Sept. 29, 2009) -- The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County announces the appointment of Mark Dowling to the board. He was appointed by Gary C. Ovitt, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The Workforce Investment Board is a public-private volunteer board that oversees the use of federal dollars to train the local workforce and support the county's employers.

"We appoint members who understand the needs of our communities and are able to assist the county in building a competitive workforce that will attract new businesses, retain existing ones and create new jobs," said Chairman Ovitt. "Mark has been a leader in economic and community development in our community for a number of years. His presence on this board will help strengthen the bond between workforce development and employers in our county."

The Workforce Investment Board partners with the county's largest industry sectors to identify workforce needs, create training programs, and prepare residents for in-demand jobs. Through the county's three employment resource centers, the Workforce Investment Board also provides job placement, job search, and career counseling services.

"We welcome Mark to our team and we look forward to the direction and vision he will provide in moving the county toward economic recovery," said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board.

On the board, Dowling will use his 18 years of experience in the field of economic and community development and private sector knowledge to help construct programs that train and support job seekers and support the businesses that employ the county's residents.

"As a board member, I can support and develop the workforce skills of our residents, which are essential for our county's economic development efforts and the future of this region," said Dowling.

Dowling currently serves as the Economic Development Agency administrator for the County of San Bernardino, which facilitates economic growth in the county. He is the former chairman of the County of San Bernardino Planning Commission and was previously vice president and partner at De Oro Properties, LLC, a full service real estate development company. Dowling is a licensed real estate broker and holds a Master's Degree in public administration and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton.

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About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County 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 Workforce Investment Board, through the county's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the county's Employment Resource Centers and Business Resource Centers. The Employment Resource Centers provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the Business Resource Centers support and provide services to the county's businesses including employee recruitment.

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