

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Southern California Leadership Council Announces New Executive Team**

**Los Angeles** - The Southern California Leadership Council today announced the appointment of a new executive team to head the organization, founded by four former California Governors and Southern California business and community leaders, to address and solve public policy issues critical to the region's economic vitality. Billie Greer will serve as President of the Leadership Council, and Richard Lambros as the Managing Director which is a new position.

“Billie Greer and Richard Lambros will take our organization to the next level. They have extensive experience in advancing important public policy issues and a record of involving leaders from the business, labor, environmental, community development, academic and government sectors in helping resolve tough California-defining issues,” said Governor Gray Davis, Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council.

Billie Greer most recently served as Director of Governor Schwarzenegger’s Los Angeles Regional office, which encompassed four counties, and as a member of his senior staff. The Governor also appointed Greer to the California Coastal Commission, as an Alternate, and to the California Science Center and Exposition Park Board. Her record on the private side of the aisle is also strong, having founded Greer/Dailey, a public affairs consulting firm in 1993 which helps for-profit and non-profit clients resolve land use and environmental challenges. Greer was inducted into the National Association of Women Business Owners/LA’s Hall of Fame in 2004. She resides in Westlake Village and downtown Los Angeles.

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For a dozen years, Richard Lambros served as the CEO of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIASC), a large non-profit trade association, which represents all aspects of the multi-billion dollar building and development industry throughout Southern California. This role, coupled with his years of experience in California state and local government affairs, has allowed Lambros to gain a reputation as a regional business and public policy leader in Southern California. At the end of 2010, he left BIASC and formed the Southern California Group, a non-partisan, strategic public affairs firm focused on providing businesses, associations, and organizations with winning strategies for navigating the state and region's complex political and regulatory environment. Lambros resides in Fullerton with his wife and four children.

Jessie Knight, Jr., Chairman & CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric and Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council, commented, "The new leadership team will bring their collective and creative thinking to bear on those issues that the Leadership Council is presently tackling – the "Beat the Panama Canal" effort; the development and implementation of water reliability and efficiency strategies in the region; and the exploration of strategies that may be needed during the transition period as the state moves toward increased reliance on alternative energy."

The Leadership Council has been focusing on several critically important jobs-related public policy issues. In conjunction with partner organizations, the group is working to form and support a "Beat the Panama Canal" coalition that would press for the modernization of Southern California's trade corridors, thereby increasing the region's competitive position internationally in anticipation of the completion of the widening of the Canal in 2014. Modernizing the corridor would also reduce community and environmental impacts of related activities. The Council believes that streamlining approvals for corridor improvements and attracting private sector partners will go a long way in protecting 500,000 jobs in manufacturing, wholesale trade and logistics sectors and in growing those jobs.

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In addition, the Leadership Council is working to identify and support projects that would meet water reliability needs and provide water/energy efficiency opportunities in the region. Potential actions needed to ensure economic stability during the region's transition to renewable power are being explored. As climate change initiatives move forward, the Leadership Council is supporting efforts to incentivize jobs growth within the manufacturing, R&D, and wholesale trade industries by emphasizing clean/green tech businesses.

Since its inception six years ago, Lee Harrington, former CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation who envisioned the Southern California Leadership Council, directed its operations. Harrington passed away in February of this year.

#### **About Southern California Leadership Council – A Regional Scope**

The Southern California Leadership Council is a public policy partnership created to provide regional business leadership on issues critical to economic vitality and job creation in Southern California. Founded in 2005, the Council is comprised of business and community leaders from throughout the seven counties of Southern California and three former California governors. Serving as a collective voice for the region's business community and other stakeholders, the Council provides information, data and pathways to public officials, policy makers and other civic leaders as policy issues critical to the region's economic vitality are addressed and resolved.

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