



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday, April 29, 2011**

### **Former Speaker of the California Assembly Robert Hertzberg To Chair LAEDC**

*Hertzberg plans to engage statewide policymakers and stakeholders on job creation  
and economic growth priorities*

**LOS ANGELES** — The Board of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to attract, retain and grow businesses and jobs in the regions of L.A. County, has elected Robert Hertzberg, former Speaker of the California State Assembly, as its next chair. Mr. Hertzberg returns to the LAEDC as Chair – a position he held in 2004. He succeeds Maura O'Connor, a partner at O'Connor Cochran, who served as the first woman to hold the position in LAEDC's 30-year history.

"I am delighted to introduce Robert Hertzberg as the new Chair at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation," stated Bill Allen, LAEDC's president and chief executive officer. "Bob has a reputation not only an innovator in California, but as a true problem-solver at the state and local level. He is uniquely positioned, through his work both in the public and private sector, to lead LAEDC as it continues to ensure the implementation of LA County's first-ever consensus strategic plan for economic development."

"I also want to thank Maura for her strong leadership in guiding LAEDC over the past year," said Allen. "Her tenure saw greater foreign investment opportunities in the LA region, and her dedication to job creation will have a lasting impact on our region."

Hertzberg serves as a partner at Mayer Brown LLP, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest global law firm, and has been recognized as a leading authority on and voice in the clean technology industry sector through his work at G24 Innovations, a company engaged in the development and production of thin film solar energy panels. While in government, Mr. Hertzberg, among many public policy areas, focused extensively on issues of globalization and redefining California's role in the new economy. He

formed the Speakers Office in International Relations and remains Chairman of the California Assembly International Foundation which helps to promote understanding between California's legislative leaders and other leaders around the globe. Mr. Hertzberg is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and the Pacific Council.

"One of the things I deeply respect about Bob's record as a public servant has been his commitment to working with all sides – Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, and liberals – to engage them on solving our most intractable issues. He served at the behest of Californians in Sacramento," said Allen, "and now as Chair of the LAEDC Bob will carry on his public service role addressing multifaceted economic problems and moving our state and local communities toward recovery and sustained economic growth."

In 2008, Mr. Hertzberg was named to replace Leon Panetta, as Co-Chair of California Forward, a non-partisan group focused on repairing the dysfunction of California Government. Mr. Hertzberg is a member and helped form both the Southern California Leadership Council and the Think Long Committee of California which works closely with California Forward in helping to reform California. He also serves as Managing Director of Pacific Capital Group in Beverly Hills, and as Chairman of Palogix International, a portfolio company of PCG.

"I was honored when Bill Allen and the LAEDC Board of Governors asked me to come on board as Chair," said Mr. Hertzberg. "The LAEDC is one of the premier economic groups in the state and has a long tradition of promoting business growth, job creation, and industry innovation. California clearly needs leaders with fresh ideas, and it makes sense to take successful strategies they have created for Los Angeles County to a larger audience statewide."

#### **About the LAEDC**

The LAEDC, the region's premier economic development leadership organization, is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(c)(3). Its mission is to attract, retain, and grow business and jobs for the regions of Los Angeles County. Since 1996, the LAEDC has helped retain or attract more than 157,000 jobs and over 1,350 businesses while providing \$8.4 billion in direct economic impact from salaries and more than \$128 million in annual tax revenue benefit to local governments and education in Los Angeles County. Visit [www.laedc.org](http://www.laedc.org) or call (888) 4-LAEDC-1.

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