



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

### **LAEDC Joins Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg & Chair of the Senate Health Committee Ed Hernandez in Statement Regarding the Lift of OSHPD's Hiring Freeze**

*Exemption helps address \$23 billion in stalled projects, impact includes 232,000 jobs and \$1.7 billion in state and local tax revenue*

**LOS ANGELES** — 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, joined state leaders praising Governor Jerry Brown's decision to lift the hiring freeze at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD):

"The news that Governor Jerry Brown has exempted OSHPD's hiring freeze comes as a major victory for California, which suffers from the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> worst unemployment rate, and especially for our devastated construction industry which has lost an estimated 300,000 jobs since the recession began in late 2007," stated LAEDC's CEO Bill Allen. "This exemption helps address the more than \$23 billion in stalled OSHPD projects, which provide direct, indirect, and induced positive impacts, including 232,000 jobs with \$15.1 billion in wages and approximately \$1.7 billion in state and local tax revenue."

"Once the LAEDC calculated how valuable such an exemption would be for the state and our construction industry, we incited leaders in Sacramento to do everything to make this a reality. I want to thank everyone involved in making this common-sense solution come to fruition," Allen continued. "This is a great example of what can happen when the private sector and government works together on job creation. The LAEDC will continue to work with our public leaders until California is finally back to being golden."

The Brown Administration's decision couldn't have come at a better time," said Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg. "Not only will this expedite needed hospital construction to make our hospitals

safer for the public and those who work there, it also will help boost our economy by creating more high-wage jobs.”

“I am pleased that Governor Brown recognized this hiring freeze was an unnecessary regulatory barrier that was standing in the way of job creation,” stated Chair of the Senate Health Committee Ed Hernandez. “By fixing this problem, we can immediately begin creating thousands of new construction jobs – and improving California’s health care infrastructure.”

#### **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 171,300 jobs while providing \$8.4 billion in direct economic impact from salaries and more than \$144 million in annual tax revenue benefit to local governments and education in Los Angeles County.

[**Editor’s Note:** To schedule interviews, please contact: Colin Maynard at 213-446-0016, [colin.maynard@laedc.org](mailto:colin.maynard@laedc.org). For more information about LAEDC, please visit [www.laedc.org](http://www.laedc.org) and [twitter.com/laedc](https://twitter.com/laedc).

To schedule interviews with the Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, please contact: Alicia Trost at (916) 651-4006, [alicia.trost@sen.ca.gov](mailto:alicia.trost@sen.ca.gov). For more information about the Pro Tem, please visit [dist06.casen.govoffice.com](http://dist06.casen.govoffice.com).

To schedule interviews with the Chair of the Senate Health Committee Ed Hernandez, please contact: Tim Valderrama at (916) 651-4024, [tim.valderrama@sen.ca.gov](mailto:tim.valderrama@sen.ca.gov). For more information about the Chair, please [sd24.senate.ca.gov](http://sd24.senate.ca.gov)]

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