

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Department of Corporations  
Department of Financial Institutions  
California Highway Patrol  
California Housing Finance Agency  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
Department of Managed Health Care  
Department of Motor Vehicles  
Board of Pilot Commissioners



**DALE E. BONNER**  
Secretary

Department of Real Estate  
Department of Transportation  
Office of the Patient Advocate  
Office of Real Estate Appraisers  
Office of Traffic Safety  
California Film Commission  
California Office of Tourism  
Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank  
Public Infrastructure Advisory Commission

## **BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 17, 2010

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### **CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL DESIGNATIONS OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INNOVATION HUB INITIATIVE**

*CA Small Business Development Center Network Makes Commitment of \$1.2 million*

SACRAMENTO -- California Business, Transportation and Housing (BTH) Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner today announced the establishment of six inaugural designations of California's new, forward-thinking Innovation Hub (iHub) initiative that will enhance the state's national and global competitiveness by stimulating partnerships, economic development, and job creation around specific research clusters. The locations include Livermore, Orange County, San Francisco, Sacramento, Sonoma County, and Coachella Valley.

"California is home to some of the most innovative companies in the world and serves as the chief supplier of innovative research, and technology to the world," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "As a leader in developing new technologies, California will reap tremendous rewards for our economy from the newly established iHub initiative because each of the iHubs will serve as a regional network of public and private sector groups focused on promoting business creation, research, and investment."

The goal of the initiative is to harness the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of the state by encouraging regional collaboration between research institutions, start-up technology companies, local governments, venture capitalists, and economic development organizations with the common goal of creating jobs.

"The new ideas and technologies generated by the iHubs will help grow California's economy and bring the benefits of innovation to the marketplace more quickly," stated Secretary Bonner, whose agency developed the iHub initiative and will be providing program oversight. "This initiative will enhance California's global competitiveness and promote investment around our state's prominent research clusters."

iHub designees will provide a platform for research clusters, startup companies, government entities, business groups, and venture capitalists by leveraging assets such as research parks, technology incubators, universities, and federal laboratories to foster innovation and job creation statewide. This collaborative effort will be especially important to the ultimate success of fledgling enterprises within an iHub.

Additionally, iHubs stand to benefit from the generous financial commitment of \$1.2 million made by California's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network – part of the U.S. Small Business Administration's SBDC Program – which has steadfastly supported entrepreneurs and innovators statewide.

“The California SBDC network applauds the State for its leadership and is pleased to enter a strategic partnership with the State that will bring federal SBDC resources,” said Kristin Johnson, state chair for the California SBDCs.

The BTH Agency consulted with numerous experts in the innovation field and worked with key stakeholders to create thorough guidelines for the initiative and a comprehensive selection process. In addition, an ad hoc committee comprised of innovation-minded representatives from organizations such as the Kauffman Foundation, NASA, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and the Keiretsu Forum reviewed applications and made its recommendation of top tier applications, those who best exemplified the goals of the initiative and established guidelines, to BTH Agency Secretary Bonner, who then made the final iHub designations. The initiative will be a continuous process, and work on future designations is ongoing with other stakeholders.

To learn more about the iHub initiative or the designees visit: [www.bth.ca.gov](http://www.bth.ca.gov) or [www.business.ca.gov](http://www.business.ca.gov).

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