



Office of the Governor

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**SECRETARY BAKER HOSTS DISASTER VOLUNTEER SUMMIT IN SAN FRANCISCO
TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN TIMES OF DISASTER**
*Summit held on heels of Governor Schwarzenegger's nation-leading action to elevate service
and volunteering to his cabinet*

San Francisco – Today, Karen Baker, Governor Schwarzenegger's newly-appointed secretary of service and volunteering hosted a Disaster Volunteer Summit in San Francisco designed to strengthen coordination of volunteers in times of disaster.

"Volunteer coordination is a crucial step in improving on our state's ability to respond to natural or man made disasters," remarked Karen Baker, secretary of Service and Volunteering. "The Governor and I recognize the need to harness this powerful resource to make a lasting impact in our communities."

The summit brought together more than 100 representatives of local, state, and tribal government agencies involved in emergency management, volunteer service providers, voluntary agencies and non-governmental organizations active in disaster.

"Preparedness is vital, and volunteerism helps foster a spirit that enables everyone to make a difference," said Matthew Bettenhausen, director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. "I look forward to working with Secretary Baker on this important endeavor."

This Disaster Volunteer Summit is the eighth such summit held by CaliforniaVolunteers throughout the state, including Sacramento on February 27, Riverside on February 29, San Diego on March 7, Irvine on March 14, Fresno on March 25, Redding on March 27 and Crescent City on March 28.

These summits come on the heels of the Governor's nation-leading action to establish a cabinet-level position on service and volunteering. This new position will raise the profile of service in the Golden State to a national level; improve coordination of vital volunteer activities statewide and support local service efforts; encourage more Californians to become involved with service and volunteerism; help California respond to natural disasters and emergencies; and give California's volunteers a voice at the highest levels of state government.

For more information about the Disaster Volunteer Summits or the establishment of a secretary of service and volunteering visit CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

ABOUT CALIFORNIAVOLUNTEERS

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering. CaliforniaVolunteers administers California Citizen Corps, the state AmeriCorps and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning programs. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals, families, businesses and groups can search for volunteer opportunities throughout the state that match their interests.

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