



Office of the Governor

For Immediate Release
July 8, 2008

Contact: Matt Schmidt
(916) 206-8205

**CALIFORNIAVOLUNTEERS COORDINATE LOCAL CITIZENS IN OUTREACH AND
EDUCATION EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR EXCESSIVE HEAT**

San Jose, CA – Today, Secretary of Service and Volunteering, Karen Baker, hosted an educational and outreach event to inform locals on the health impacts related to the excessive heat predicted throughout this week.

The event was held at the Hank Lopez Community Center which will be used as a local cooling center for residents to escape the high temperatures. Secretary Baker stressed the importance of understanding the impacts of excessive heat and underscored the importance of working together within our communities to prepare for any emergency, and ultimately save lives.

“With record breaking temperatures on the horizon, it is crucial that Californians take time out to make sure that their neighbors and community members who may be at risk are taken care of,” said Karen Baker, Secretary of Service and Volunteering. “Many heat related deaths and illnesses can be prevented by simple activities such as knocking on your neighbors door to make sure they have enough water or checking to see if they have a means to stay cool.”

Following the press conference, local volunteers canvassed local residential communities to provide preparedness materials and to answer heat related questions.

Attendees included representatives from various state and local agencies including John Anderson, coastal region administrator for the governor’s Office of Emergency Services and Kim Shunk, director office of emergency services, city of San Jose .

For more information regarding California’s heat wave, please visit the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Web site at www.oes.ca.gov.

ABOUT CALIFORNIAVOLUNTEERS

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering, including the state AmeriCorps program, California Citizen Corps and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can find more than 40,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation’s first state cabinet secretary of service and volunteering leads the organization and First Lady Maria Shriver serves as the honorary chairperson. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

###