

For Immediate Release:

March 9, 2009

Contact:

Helen Duong, (408) 795-1807  
San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
[helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov)

## Expanded Enterprise Zone Will Help Boost San Jose's Efforts to Recruit New Industries and Create Jobs

*Businesses located in Zone will be able to take advantage of tax  
benefits*

**SAN JOSE, CALIF.** –With the State of California's approval to expand San Jose's Enterprise Zone by two square miles, the City of San Jose will be in a more competitive position to attract and retain jobs in emerging industries, such as clean technology and bioscience, while at the same time attract and retain jobs for low- and moderate- income individuals.

“As we seek to establish San Jose as the world center of clean tech innovation, we are pleased to receive the State's approval to expand the Enterprise Zone, which will provide additional incentives for emerging-industry companies to locate here, stay here, and grow here,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “This additional opportunity comes at a time when San Jose is working hard to attract businesses and R&D and manufacturing jobs. We welcome entrepreneurs who want to partner with us to grow the economy and create employment opportunities.”

San Jose's Enterprise Zone is one of the State of California's 42 Enterprise Zones. The program targets economically disadvantaged areas. Businesses located in the enterprise zone receive significant tax benefits such as hiring tax and sales and use tax credits. Other examples of incentives include business expense deductions, income tax credits for employees and net interest deductions for lenders.

“Our company saves about a quarter of a million a year in taxes from being in an Enterprise Zone; that calculates to 80 jobs that are preserved and retained in San Jose and 80 families from suffering from financial hardship,” said Jeffrey T. Burke, President and CEO Airtronics Metal Products, Inc. “We really trust in this program and would never consider moving to another location.”

*-more-*

The City of San Jose was granted its first Enterprise Zone in 1986, a 15-year designation. A 5-year extension was approved in 2001. In December 2006, the City was approved for a second 15-year Enterprise Zone designation that encompassed approximately ten square miles in the Monterey Corridor, Downtown, Julian Stockton and Old Oakland Road and Berryessa Avenue south of Highway 880.

“Through our strategic investments in redevelopment project areas, we have created a more favorable investment environment for businesses and developers,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “This program expansion will provide needed support to economically distressed areas and communities during these challenging times.”

Approximately 90 percent of the existing Enterprise Zone is located in Redevelopment project areas, with the majority of the companies being small business with less than 30 employees. The following are the expanded Enterprise Zone areas:

- North of Highway 237
- Southern part of Rincon de Los Esteros
- Alum Rock Avenue between Highways 101 and 680
- Eastern part of Edenvale Technology Park
- The San Jose Mineta International Airport West site (formerly known as the FMC property)

Enterprise Zones contribute to assessed local benefits, such as overall economic vitality from business and job growth, added sales and property tax, building permit fees, land use improvements and reduced blight.

To learn more, visit [www.sjredevelopment.org/EnterpriseZoneProgram.htm](http://www.sjredevelopment.org/EnterpriseZoneProgram.htm)

*-more-*

**About San Jose's Green Vision**

On October 30, 2007, San Jose implemented its Green Vision, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development. The 15-year goals include creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs; installing 100,000 solar roofs; reducing per capita electricity use by half; and moving to 100 percent renewable energy. San Jose already is a leader in solar technology innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Stion, Nanosolar, Fat Spaniel, and others headquartered in the City. For more information, visit [www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/).

**About the San Jose Redevelopment Agency**

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit [www.sjredevelopment.org](http://www.sjredevelopment.org).

###