

**For Immediate Release:**  
**April 26, 2010**

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

## **San Jose Leaders Unveil San Jose Innovation Center**

Center is home to three successful business support programs

**Event:** San Jose leaders are hosting a Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the San Jose Innovation Center, located in a newly-renovated historic building in Downtown San Jose. With assistance from the Redevelopment Agency, the Center houses two incubator programs and a business support program: the Environmental Business Cluster, the U.S. Market Access Center and the Entrepreneur Center.

**When:** **Monday, May 3, 2010**  
**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Where:** San Jose Innovation Center  
100 E. Santa Clara Street (corner of 3rd and Santa Clara Streets)

**Who:** Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, District 16  
Mayor Chuck Reed, City of San Jose  
Councilmember Sam Liccardo, District 3, City of San Jose  
Jon Whitmore, President, San Jose State University  
Harry S. Mavrogenes, Executive Director,  
San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
Mark Quinn, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration

**Background:** Since 1994, San Jose's incubator and business service programs have helped local start-ups and small businesses commercialize the innovative technologies being developed in Silicon Valley and assist the growth of hundreds of small businesses.

**-more-**

Last fall, San Jose relocated three of its business support programs - the Environmental Business Cluster (EBC), the U.S. Market Access Center (USMAC) and the Entrepreneur Center (eCenter) – from separate buildings into the new San Jose Innovation Center. The EBC and USAC programs are operated and managed by the San Jose State Research Foundation, and the eCenter is managed by the Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation. San Jose State Research Foundation shares a 15-year partnership with the City of San Jose and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency has invested more than \$20 million in these programs to support the growth of new software, clean tech and emerging technology companies, as well as international businesses looking to expand in the U.S. Along with the incubator and business service programs at the SJ Innovation Center, the Agency's investment also includes the SJ BioCenter, which is located in the Edenvale Technology Park, South San Jose. These programs have been effective in helping small businesses grow by generating over 2,600 jobs and enabling companies affiliated with the programs to raise \$1.6 billion in capital equity financing.

The Entrepreneur Center (eCenter) is home to six business service providers offering consulting services, financing programs, and business training. Established in 2000 as a partnership between the Redevelopment Agency, and the U.S. Small Business Administration, the eCenter serves over 10,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners every year.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency invested approximately \$540,000 to renovate the 100-year-old, 27,500-square-foot office building, which included the innovative adaptive re-use of a blade sign from the Hotel Montgomery. The Agency also contributes approximately \$480,000 annually for the building rent to support the various programs.

The consolidation of these programs into the new San Jose Innovation Center will save the Redevelopment Agency \$3 million over the next five years and increase synergy and collaboration between the programs.

# # #