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The Executive Order from Governor Schwarzenegger declaring a cabinet-level position for service and volunteering, 2008

by Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California

EXECUTIVE ORDER S-02-08

WHEREAS the State of California has a long tradition of volunteer service and civic engagement that has inspired millions of people from all across our great state to actively contribute their talents and time to assist others and serve the greater good of society; and

WHEREAS in 2006, 6.47 million Californians volunteered in their communities, performing more than 858.5 million hours of service valued at over \$17.4 billion to California's economy; and

WHEREAS California Volunteers, then the California Service Corps, was tasked by Executive Order S-04-06 with ensuring the coordination of volunteer activities related to disaster response and recovery, including necessary training, equipment, and transportation provisions; and

WHEREAS through California Volunteers and local volunteer organizations, more than 10,000 Californians responded to California's call for volunteers to help those affected by the Southern California Wildfires; and

WHEREAS since 1994, more than 69,000 men and women have committed a year of service to California communities through AmeriCorps and these men and women have provided such services as tutoring at-risk youth, restoring vital watersheds, and building homes for the homeless; and

WHEREAS volunteers play an important role in helping state agencies and departments provide services to Californians and supporting the significant contributions of the state's public servants; and

WHEREAS volunteers help address critical issues that affect all Californians, such as environmental protection, disaster preparedness, anti-poverty efforts, and mentoring at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS state government cannot solve all of the many challenges facing California and must effectively and efficiently engage more volunteers to address community needs. The enhancement and better coordination of the public and private sectors in support of volunteering is vital to improving California; and

WHEREAS service and volunteering efforts in California must be strengthened through improved collaboration to reach their maximum potential; and

WHEREAS changes to the current structure of CaliforniaVolunteers will help increase the positive impact of volunteering and service in California; and

WHEREAS California Volunteers can be strengthened without the need to add any new net costs to the budget, by redirecting positions and funding from other agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of California, do hereby issue this Executive Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Executive Orders S-04-06 and S-24-06 are supplemented by this Executive Order.
- 2. CaliforniaVolunteers will be headed by a Secretary of Service and Volunteering, who shall be appointed by, and who shall serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Secretary of Service and Volunteering shall be a member of the Governor's cabinet.
- 3. The existing California Volunteers Commission will continue to serve as California's "State Commission" for purposes of the National and Community Service Trust Act (42 U.S.C. § 12501 et seq.) and its implementing rules and regulations.
- 4. CaliforniaVolunteers shall be the lead agency under the California Emergency Services Act (Gov. Code, § 8550 et seq.) for the coordination of monetary and in-kind donations during times of disaster. It will cooperate with the Office of Emergency Services in fulfilling these duties.
- 5. The Secretary of Service and Volunteering will collaborate with private organizations to increase investment and participation in service and volunteering.
- 6. The existing Governor's Mentoring Partnership, established as the California Mentor Council by Executive Order W-132-96, shall be part of California Volunteers, including its staff and all its power and duties.
- 7. All state agencies and departments are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist CaliforniaVolunteers in carrying out its duties and increasing volunteer opportunities within state government.

This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I FURTHER DIRECT THAT, as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given to this order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 26th day of February 2008.

Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State

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