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For Immediate ReleaseContact: Annmarie Billotti
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Merges Oakland and San Jose Offices to Preserve Jobs and Cut Cost**

New Consolidated Office Opens in Fremont March 2012

ELK GROVE - The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) announced today that it will consolidate its San Jose and Oakland offices into a single location in Fremont. The Department will continue to vigorously enforce California's civil rights laws in five, instead of six, offices throughout the state, and retain a strong presence in the Bay Area. The consolidation is necessary to reduce space, preserve jobs, and maximize effectiveness and efficiency in delivering public services.

"The Department will continue to meet its civil rights mission statewide—including those areas currently served by the San Jose and Oakland offices—with greater efficiency and effectiveness after office consolidation is complete," said Department Director Phyllis Cheng.

The new Fremont office is located 15 miles from the existing San Jose office and 28 miles from the existing Oakland office. It is a modern facility within a business park that is accessible by BART, and a short walk from the Fremont BART station. The facility offers free parking for employees and visitors, surrounding amenities such as shops and restaurants, and access to Fremont's culturally diverse community and civic center.

The Department will operate in three regional offices (Fremont, Elk Grove, and Los Angeles) and two district offices (Fresno and Bakersfield), and will continue to serve all California communities, regardless where DFEH offices are located. Hate crimes victims and victims of employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination need only call 800-884-1684 to access the DFEH's services.

Statewide, at any time of day, victims of employment discrimination also may schedule an appointment for a telephone intake interview, or request and obtain an immediate right-to-sue online, by logging onto www.dfeh.ca.gov.

"Consolidating the San Jose and Oakland Offices, rather than eliminating jobs, will enable the DFEH to continue carrying out its civil rights mission for all Californians for many years to come," added Director Cheng.

The mission of the DFEH is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and from hate violence. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the DFEH realized 1.5 million dollars in general funds savings due to new efficiencies and office consolidations. For more information about the DFEH's achievements and the laws the department enforces, please visit www.dfeh.ca.gov.

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