



Oakland Builders Alliance

Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

**New Group, *Oakland Builder's Alliance*, hosts successful Membership Drive
Over 200 people from the building trades and professions rally to promote the needs of their industry**

The Alliance is quickly expanding membership base and plans to raise concerns about economic conditions in Oakland and potential impact on city budget.

(Oakland, CA)— In its first membership drive on May 15, 2008 approximately 200 Oakland-based small and mid-sized builders, contractors and those in the related building trades and professions met in downtown Oakland to learn more about the newly formed Oakland Builder's Alliance. The membership drive was a resounding success with dozens of new members signing up to become part of this growing organization.

“It is a scary time for most of us. As a builder, the forecast for us can be grim as we are forced to stop work, which impacts the contractors, subcontractors, and finally the suppliers, which really translates into real families experiencing hardship. We are excited to be a part of an organization that supports Oakland's economic revitalization,” said Kathy Kuhner, Vice-President of the Oakland Builders Alliance.

The new group, **the Oakland Builder's Alliance (OBA)**, has been formed in Oakland to advocate for policies and practices in the City of Oakland that will help Oakland weather the economic downturn. The mission of the OBA is: *to be a reliable and credible voice in support of the continued economic revitalization of Oakland through the establishment of reasonable and innovative policies and practices that support smart-growth and urban infill; that lead to livable communities; and that create mixed-income, mixed-use communities that reduce dependency on automobiles, and encourage safe, walk-able streets.*

Started in December over a conversation between several individuals in the building trades and professions, the Oakland Builder's Alliance has incorporated as a non-profit advocacy group in support of policies and practices in the city that encourage smart growth, urban infill and the economic revitalization in Oakland.

Over the next several months, the Oakland Builder's Alliance, will be participating in the City of Oakland's discussion on housing policy, downtown rezoning, industrial land use, focusing on proposing recommendations that encourage economic growth, and maximize the potential for Oakland to weather the upcoming economic downturn, as opposed to creating further obstacles to economic development which will only drive up unemployment in Oakland.

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