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## **San José Software and Environmental Business Clusters Celebrate Ten Years of Innovation**

*San José* ---The Software Business Cluster and Environmental Business Cluster, two of San Jose's leading business incubators, celebrated their tenth anniversary with a luncheon at the Silicon Valley Capital Club in Downtown San José today.

“San José has always been at the forefront of technological change, innovation, and entrepreneurship,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “The Software and Environmental Business Clusters have helped these startups companies grow and prosper and have been instrumental in keeping San José at the cutting edge of technological innovation and industrial growth.”

Founded in 1994, the Software Business Cluster (SBC) and Environmental Business Cluster (EBC) have played key roles in growing the software and environmental industry sectors and turning innovation into industry.

The SBC and EBC, located in Downtown San José, attract early-stage companies to San José and provide entrepreneurs with access to resources that can help ensure their success, including affordable space and business start-up services.

In the past ten years, over 220 companies have graduated from the SBC and EBC. Cluster companies have raised over \$550 million in equity, a significant investment in San Jose's economy. Cluster companies have also generated over \$9 million in sales tax revenues for the city.

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The SBC works with early-stage software and Internet companies, connecting them with mentoring, funding, and networking resources. The Cluster is the first software incubator in California. In the past ten years, the SBC has graduated over one hundred companies; four of these companies – Agile Software, Calico Commerce, eGain Communications, and Callidus Software – have gone public. In 2000, the SBC received the National Business Incubator Association’s “Incubator of the Year” award.

The SBC’s presence has helped create a software industry hub in Downtown San José. “Over 75% of the companies incubated by the Cluster chose to locate in San José after graduating from the SBC – a phenomenal retention rate,” said Jim Robbins, Executive Director of the SBC and EBC. “Ten years ago, there were five software companies in Downtown San José. Today, there are over ninety, of which two thirds are SBC graduates. These companies have created a dynamic, innovative environment in San José, helping the city maintain its world leadership in the software industry.”

The EBC assists startup companies making environmentally-friendly products or providing services which have a positive impact on the environment. The Cluster is the first environmental business incubator to operate in the United States. The EBC has graduated over 120 companies and received over \$1 million in federal and state grants to support clean and renewable energy startup companies.

In 2003, the EBC was chosen by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to provide incubation and consulting services to selected CEC grant recipients. Today, the EBC is the largest private technology commercialization program for clean and renewable energy in the country.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA) has supported small business development through a \$20 million investment in four incubators and the Software Development Forum over a ten-year period. The SJRA partners with San José State University Foundation, which operates the incubators.

The SJRA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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