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August 27, 1991

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AUG 29 1991
Ans'd. RJA

Leon L. Williams
Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1600 Pacific Coast Highway, Room 335
San Diego, California 92101

Re: Closing of San Diego Office of the California Department of Corporations

Dear Mr. William:

This letter is to express the opposition of the San Diego County Bar Association ("SDCBA") to the proposed closing of the San Diego office of the California Department of Corporations. Thomas S. Sayles, Commissioner of Corporations, has recently indicated to the press that, in view of budget constraints, he is considering the closing of the Department's San Diego office and the servicing of the San Diego metropolitan area from the Department's office in Los Angeles. The SDCBA respectfully requests that the Commissioner adopt other measures to meet his agency's reduced budget.

The SDCBA is opposed to the closing of the San Diego office for several reasons. First, the office provides a necessary, efficient and effective service to the San Diego business and legal communities in processing securities applications. It is important that both local attorneys and local business people be accorded the same access to state services as that which are available in California's other large metropolitan areas. Attorneys and business leaders will find it difficult and gravely inconvenient to deal in matters concerning complex and often delicate facets of business with an office well over 100 miles away. Additionally, businesses which currently employ San Diego counsel in securities matters may seek to shift their affiliation to law firms located in Los Angeles and San Francisco where direct contact with the Department is possible.

Second, the San Diego office plays an important role in offering extensive enforcement and investigative capability in securities matters for California's second largest city and its surrounding

communities. The office acts in many respects as a protector and spokesman for the consumer by investigating claims by investors, small and large, brought against issuers of securities which may have engaged in questionable activities. We believe it would be an impossible task to aggressively and thoroughly pursue such investigative and enforcement matters from Los Angeles.

Third, San Diego has long sought to attract, or keep, businesses within our community. To do so it is vital to have the infrastructure necessary to service the needs of business. The presence of important state agencies such as the Department of Corporations in San Diego is an essential element of that infrastructure. The closing of the office would place San Diego in a competitive disadvantage in drawing new businesses which may also be considering San Francisco or Los Angeles.

We therefore request your assistance in contacting the Commissioner and urging him to maintain the Department's office in San Diego.

Very truly yours,

George P. Andreos, President
San Diego County Bar Association