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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CALIFORNIA’S GRANTMAKERS JOIN WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
 TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF DIVERSE COMMUNITIES**

Los Angeles, CA, January 8, 2008 — Northern California Grantmakers (NCG), San Diego Grantmakers (SDG) and Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) have entered into a partnership with State Assemblymember Joe Coto (D-23) to address the needs of communities of color in California.

Speaking for the three regional associations Sushma Raman, President of SCG, said, “We applaud Assemblymember Coto’s long-standing commitment to underserved communities. This partnership will strengthen the collaboration between the public and private sectors to combat the complex issues faced by California’s communities of color.”

For the past year NCG, SDG and SCG have been discussing with Assemblymember Coto his legislation AB 624, which deals with the issue of private foundations’ funding of minority-led nonprofit organizations, and the extent of minority representation within foundations.

To develop further understanding of the issues, the regional associations have commissioned research on the subject from The Foundation Center, the nation’s leading provider of information about philanthropy. The research will inform future strategies for California’s foundations to increase the funding in communities of color, as well as diversify foundation leadership.

The members of this newly announced partnership are excited to explore ways in which the philanthropic community can work with the Legislature to improve the health, well-being and level of investment in communities of color.

The leadership of NCG, SDG and SCG are available for comment:

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**About NCG, SDG and SCG**

NCG, SDG and SCG are membership associations that promote effective giving among California’s grantmakers. Collectively the three associations’ memberships include 400 institutional foundations, individual philanthropists and giving programs in California. Association members represent all facets of the sector from private, family, public, community and corporate grantmaking institutions. Together they make up the largest associated network of grantmakers in the state.

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