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## **State Announces Stimulus Funds to Support Small Business and Create Jobs for Californians**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) today announced nearly \$3 million in America Recovery and Reinvestment (Recovery Act) funds to help two small businesses create and retain jobs in their communities. The awards were made through the Recovery Act's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-R) Program.

HCD will award the grants to the City of Oroville and the County of Mendocino. In turn, the jurisdictions will loan the funds to two businesses: Roplast Industries and Agwood Mill and Lumber Company.

"The California Recovery Task Force is committed to ensuring that stimulus dollars are spent quickly and efficiency," said Herb K. Schultz, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director of the Recovery Task Force. "These awards will boost California's economy by providing loans for small businesses and will create jobs for Californians."

Roplast Industries, in Oroville, is a producer of industrial films and high quality consumer carrier bags. Roplast's expansion plans for the next three years include the purchase of equipment that will allow operating efficiencies and the establishment of new production lines. With these upgrades, Roplast will be able to meet the demands of their customers for high quality bags at competitive prices. The \$1,000,000 in CDBG-R funding will be used to purchase equipment and the business will create 20 jobs.

"Jobs are the number one priority of the Administration and these awards will provide immediate help to these businesses and their communities," said HCD Director Lynn L. Jacobs.

Agwood Mill and Lumber Company is a family owned lumber milling and brokering firm in Mendocino County. The CDBG-R assistance will secure the working capital needed for Agwood to purchase, mill and conduct sales activities. The \$2,017,917 award will provide working capital and will result in the retention of 39 jobs.

The Schwarzenegger Administration is committed to expanding housing opportunities for all Californians. HCD is part of the State of California, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. For further program information, contact the Department at (916) 552-9398 or visit <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbq/Enterprise.html>.

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