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Lt. Governor John Garamendi to Tout Bio-Technology as Key to State's Economic Future During Wednesday Meetings at Prominent South San Francisco Bio Science Facilities

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif -- Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on Wednesday will announce that he will recommend the creation of a state advisory committee on biotechnology to help support and spur the growth of California's economy. Garamendi, as chair of the newly revitalized Commission for Economic Development, (CED) will recommend the action to his fellow CED Commissioners. The announcement will come just prior to tours of two biotech facilities, at which Garamendi will meet with executives from the biotech companies as well as with representatives from BayBio, a non-profit life science association with over 350 members. The first of the two tours will take place at Poniard Pharmaceuticals, which researches and develops various products for the treatment of cancer. That tour will be followed by a viewing of nearby Cell Genesys facilities and its ongoing research projects.

California is the birthplace of the biotech industry and home to one-third of all biotech firms in the United States. As a University of California Regent, Garamendi supports the innovations and \$500 million in research funding that the higher education system has committed to promote the development of such biotechnologies.

WHO: Lt. Governor John Garamendi
Matt Gardner, President of BayBio;
Jerry McMahon, CEO of Poniard;
Caroline Loewy, CFO of Poniard

WHEN: 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, 8/1; press availability followed by tour

WHERE: Poniard Pharmaceuticals,
7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 270
South San Francisco, CA