



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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MONEY BACK IN YOUR WALLET! ***County Helps Residents Recoup Tax Dollars***

WHAT: Supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Bill Horn join community service providers and working families to kick off the 2009 countywide campaign to help more San Diego County families and individuals take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

During the campaign, about 600 volunteers will offer tax preparation services at 80 sites throughout the county. Residents should call 211 for information.

WHO: **Vice-Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price**, Third District, County of San Diego
Supervisor Bill Horn, Fifth District, County of San Diego
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency
Shaina Gross, United Way of San Diego County
Ron Wicks, Internal Revenue Service

WHEN: **FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009 AT 10:30 A.M.**
WHERE: **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER—EAST PLAZA**
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY

WHY: The latest IRS estimates indicate that, nationally, between 20 and 25 percent of eligible individuals do not claim the credit.

During the 2003 tax season, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors launched a pilot program, spearheaded by Vice Chairwoman Slater-Price and Supervisor Greg Cox, which provided tax preparation assistance to low-income workers. The program was expanded countywide the following year.

In 2008, nearly 20,000 returns were filed, bringing about \$20 million to working families and the local economy. Nearly 7.3 million were EITC dollars.

Since the campaign began, more than 23.5 million EITC dollars have been returned to the regional economy.

Established in 1975, the EITC is the federal government's largest cash assistance program designed to lift low-income families and individuals out of poverty by helping them keep more of their hard-earned wages.

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