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**\*\*\* PRESS STATEMENT \*\*\***

**MAYOR NEWSOM AND BAY AREA LEADERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRAISE  
ANNEMARIE CONROY'S SERVICE TO SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY REGION**

*Mayor Gavin Newsom today accepted the resignation of Annemarie Conroy, who has served most recently as Chair of the Super Urban Area Security Initiative, under the new Department of Emergency Management. In this capacity, Ms. Conroy was the city's lead on the critically important regional planning effort currently underway for the 10 Bay Area Counties and 3 major cities of Oakland, San Jose and San Francisco.*

"It is with regret that I have accepted Ms. Conroy's resignation. By any objective standard, Ms. Conroy has done a superb job in her work for the City and County of San Francisco as the Executive Director of the Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. She leaves behind a city and a department more ready than ever before to respond to an emergency. Her leadership on the historic regional plan has helped move this much needed initiative from concept to reality. Without question, Ms. Conroy has provided tremendous service to both San Francisco and to the Bay Area."

*Ms. Conroy's peers in emergency preparedness, including experts from around the state and the Bay Area, also praised her service:*

"Annemarie Conroy has made significant contributions to local and regional disaster planning and preparedness. Under her leadership, the City made tremendous progress, which included the creation of the award-winning preparedness website 72hours.org. Due to Annemarie's hard work and dedication, San Francisco is better prepared to respond to a major disaster."

-- Laura Phillips, Director of the Office of Emergency Management said

"Annemarie provided leadership for the development of regional disaster planning and the regionalization of the Homeland Security funding program to meet the needs of the entire Bay region. Annemarie was instrumental in coordinating the UASI effort to create a unified regional approach to emergency preparedness."

-- Rich Eisner, Regional Administrator for the State's Office of Emergency Services

"Annemarie Conroy is the reason why the Super UASI grant came together in such an efficient way. Given the fact that this effort includes so many jurisdictions, this was no small task – and Ms. Conroy facilitated much needed cooperation to make this process a reality."

-- Rich Lucia, Undersheriff for Alameda County Sheriffs Office

"Under Ms. Conroy's guidance, San Francisco's emergency services team became the recognized spirit and practical driving force behind the current development of the SF Bay Regional Coordination plan – a plan that will serve not only as model for California but also for the nation."

-- Chris Godley, Emergency Services Manager for Marin County

“Annemarie’s departure is a big loss for the Bay Area’s emergency management. Her experience and professionalism really helped advance emergency preparedness in the Bay Area and statewide. She brought the emergency management field to a higher level.”

-- Sandy Covall-Alves, Emergency Services Coordinator for Sonoma County

*Ms. Conroy is widely acknowledged to have brought long-overdue improvements to San Francisco’s emergency preparedness capabilities, as well as the Bay Area’s.*

*Under Ms. Conroy, the recently renamed Department of Emergency Management updated the city’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the first time in a decade and created the nationally recognized 72hours.org website. During her tenure, several key emergency annexes were created including a greatly expanded care and shelter plan, a new animal care and shelter plan, as well as the first-of-its-kind Earthquake Response Plan Enhancement. Recently adopted by the Disaster Council, this first-of-its-kind document supplements the EOP with an unprecedented level of catastrophic-earthquake specific response planning.*

*Additionally, under Ms. Conroy’s leadership, the city’s emergency preparedness department secured \$82 million in federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding for San Francisco, as well as an additional \$23 million in DHS funding for the Bay region.*

*Ms. Conroy is also credited with implementing the new AlertSF text paging program, the launch of new preparedness outreach programs, including to the Housing Authority, the new community disaster planning efforts (with District 5 serving as a pilot program), the institution of regular training and exercises, the augmentation of the city’s capabilities in the area of search and rescue, a new care and shelter database that is considered a national model, and innovative new programs for Disaster Service Workers that is also considered a national model.*

*Ms. Conroy has been recognized by her peers in the region, as well as the nation. She was selected by the International Association of Emergency Managers to serve on the committee to establish nationwide standards for citizen preparedness programs for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. And she was chosen by the Department of Homeland Security and sponsored by DHS to attend the highly competitive Masters in Homeland Security program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Additionally, Ms. Conroy was selected by DHS as a member of the national peer review panel to evaluate applications for the \$765 million Urban Area Security Initiative Program for 2006 funding.*

*Ms. Conroy was the 2006 recipient of the Diamond Award from the California Emergency Services Association, Coastal Chapter. The Diamond Award is given for outstanding achievement in emergency management, and it is the highest level of recognition given by CESA. She was also honored in 2005 and 2006 as one of the “15 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Government” by the San Francisco Business Times.*

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