



News Release

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SBA Announces Appointment of Elizabeth Echols as Administrator for Region IX

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced the appointment of Elizabeth Echols, as the Regional Administrator in Region IX, to oversee the SBA’s programs and services in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam.

“Both the SBA and small businesses of the region will benefit greatly from Elizabeth’s career in public service and commitment to innovation and business development,” said SBA Administrator Karen Mills. “Her background in management, technology and green business will be a tremendous asset as we continue to help drive economic growth through support for small businesses throughout the region, and in particular innovative businesses and entrepreneurs with high-growth and job creation potential.”

“The SBA is playing a critical role in our nation’s economic recovery,” Echols said. “I’m excited to have the opportunity to make a difference on the single biggest economic issue facing our country and Region IX – the need to create quality jobs and get people back to work. I’m honored to have the chance to implement the President’s plan for economic recovery, which includes giving small businesses the tools they need to grow and drive our economy forward. I look forward to working with Administrator Mills and the talented staff throughout the region to succeed in this important mission.”

Echols currently serves as Director of the Northern California chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, where she focuses on developing public policy and forging alliances to support green jobs, and furthers the development of one of the nation’s fastest growing non-profits. Previously, she co-led the agency review process for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration during the Obama-Biden Transition Project, and served as Director of Policy for nearly four years at Google, where she managed the development and implementation of global policies for Google’s consumer and business products.

Echols worked on Internet and telecommunications issues at the White House and the Department of Commerce under President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Yale and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

Echols will oversee 120 employees in 12 offices, including the California district offices in Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno, Santa Ana, San Diego, and Los Angeles; as well as offices in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Hagatna, Guam. SBA has supported more than 11,000 Recovery loans in Region IX, worth nearly \$6 billion.

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