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**CalPERS Headquarters wins 2008 Beyond Green™ Award;
Principal Anthony Markese Speaks at Congressional Briefing**Anna Bran | <http://www.sbicouncil.org>

WASHINGTON, DC — On February 26, 2009, winners of the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council's (SBIC) 2008 Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building Awards, including the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Headquarters Complex, were honored on Capitol Hill as part of a Congressional briefing intended to recognize outstanding initiatives and real-world applications that shape, inform, and catalyze the market for high-performance buildings.

The awards program and briefing took place at the Rayburn House Office Building in conjunction with the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus (HPBCC) and the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition.

"Our intention is to sensitize the audience to the benefits of high-performance buildings by showcasing actual examples of these buildings from across the country," said SBIC Executive Director, Sophia Greenbaum. "To that end, today we are presenting our 2008 Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building Awards and sharing why these projects exemplify best-in-class for high-performance construction practices and initiatives nationally."

Following opening comments by Representative Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Co-Chair of the HPBCC, Jack Armstrong, an SBIC Board Member representing the BASF Corporation, served as master of ceremonies. The program highlighted three winning case studies, including the California Public Employees' Retirement System Headquarters Complex in Sacramento, CA, Award Winner in the Multi-Use Building Category presented by Anthony Markese, AIA of Pickard Chilton.

The CalPERS Headquarters Complex in Sacramento is one of the many sustainable projects that the firm of Pickard Chilton has recently designed. Anthony Markese, AIA, discussed how important it is for the public to understand that high-performance buildings can be beautiful, efficient, accessible, and safe. Markese also emphasized that high-performance buildings do not have to be small, niche buildings.