NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS04:058

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 2, 2004

Contact: Press Office
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Launches "UCC Connect" Website

Provides Online Filing and Search Services for Businesses

www.uccconnect.ss.ca.gov.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA-- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today launched a new website to expedite filings and searches related to the California Uniform Commercial Codes (UCC). The Secretary of State's Office is the central filing office for certain financing statements, agricultural liens and other lien documents provided for in the UCC.

"This service will expedite the filing and search process for businesses and financial institutions that are required to follow the UCC," stated Secretary Shelley. "We are offering an electronic process to the public with no paper copies required to complete the transaction."

UCC Connect allows business entities to search for records, order copies of documents (certified or uncertified) and print their queries using a home or office printer. More than 2.5 million paper documents have been digitally imaged and placed on the website, providing customers with access to the entire UCC database.

"We have incorporated suggestions from many California businesses," said Shelley. "We expect this to be a very popular service."

Prior to the launch of the UCC service, businesses were required either to appear in person at the Secretary of State's office or mail the documents and then wait for them to be returned by mail. Under the new online service, a UCC lien (original or amendment) may be filed by following an easy step-by-step process.

UCC Connect is the first phase of the Business Programs Automation Project. In the future, the system will be expanded to include additional types of business entity services.

-30-