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SAN JOSE WINS GREEN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honor lauds City's environmentally preferable purchasing practices

SAN JOSE, CALIF. (April 9, 2008)—The City of San Jose today received a Green California Leadership Award for its *Environmentally Preferable Procurement Program* in a ceremony at the 2008 Green California Summit and Exposition in Sacramento. The *Environmentally Preferable Procurement Program (EP3)* is a progressive green approach to reduce the environmental impact of City operations and service delivery by identifying and procuring environmentally superior goods and services.

The Green Leadership Award for San Jose cited the City for using its considerable buying power to move the market towards environmentally superior goods and demonstrate leadership for other municipalities and San Jose residents to do the same. By increasing consumer demand for green products, San Jose is supporting the emerging green economy and creating local jobs. Innovative policies and programs, such as EP3, are critical components of achieving San Jose's Green Vision, a fifteen-year plan to transform San Jose into a world center of Clean Technology innovation, promote cutting-edge sustainable practices, and demonstrate that the goals of job creation, environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility are inextricably linked.

“We are honored to receive a Green California Leadership Award for our purchasing practices. This award acknowledges the work San Jose employees have done to achieve the goals put forth in our San Jose Green Vision. We hope other cities will be inspired to “buy green” and adopt programs that help improve the environment,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed.

The Green California Leadership Awards were established to recognize outstanding environmental achievements by state and local government.

Other highlights of the *Environmentally Preferable Procurement* Program that merited the Green California Leadership Award include:

EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool): San Jose was the first municipality to adopt this new US comprehensive environmental standard for information technology incorporating the standard into its last contract for computer equipment.

Energy innovations: San Jose is 1) purchasing renewable energy credits for new city facilities which will provide San Jose with 4 points towards LEED green building certification ; 2) revising its lighting specifications to only procure low mercury fluorescent lights and 3) developing power purchase agreements for utilizing renewable energy at the San Jose International Airport.

Integrated Pest Management: San Jose is substituting bats, owls and goats for pesticides and herbicides in controlling insects, gophers, and weeds in city parks with the procurement of bat and owl boxes and rental of goat herds. This reduces pollution and crop damage in community gardens, makes for healthier parks for workers and residents, reduced fire risk, and cleaner storm water runoff.

Paper: San Jose has switched to 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper for all City business. To offset the cost, San Jose is implementing a “Paper Cuts” paper use reduction initiative that helps people identify how to reduce their paper usage.

Vehicles: San Jose has transitioned from the use of diesel to biodiesel in 20 percent of its diesel vehicles. San Jose is in the process of procuring hybrid sedans and SUVs. Currently, the City fleet consists of approximately 2,700 vehicles. Out of this number 34 percent are AFVs (alternate fuel vehicles).

Airport Concessions: The Mineta San Jose International Airport’s last RFP (request for proposals), the City stated that, in compliance with the Urban Environmental Accords, concessionaires are asked to promote the use of organic foods.

The Green California Leadership Awards are presented by Green Technology, a non-profit initiative designed to inform government efforts toward sustainability, providing a forum in which government officials can communicate with those in the private sector who are developing and distributing green technologies. For more information, visit www.green-technology.org

ABOUT SAN JOSE’S GREEN VISION

The Clean Tech Open complements San Jose’s Green Vision: a comprehensive strategy that addresses how environmental responsibility makes financial sense and stimulates economic opportunity. With the Green Vision, San Jose will lead the nation in becoming more energy efficient, producing and using electricity from clean renewable sources, creating green buildings, diverting waste from landfills, creating greener street systems, delivering recycled water, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This vision includes 10 bold goals that will serve as a roadmap to reduce the carbon footprint of the tenth largest city in the nation by more than half. For more information, please visit, www.sanjoseca.gov/pdf/SanJoseGreenVision.pdf

ABOUT THE CITY OF SAN JOSE

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

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