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Contact: Tina Montgomery, Marketing Manager
707-795-3550, ext 138
email: tinam@codding.com

Governor Names Sonoma Mountain Village Winner of 2008 Top Environmental Leadership Award

NOVEMBER 25, 2008, SACRAMENTO – Today, Governor Schwarzenegger announced that Sonoma Mountain Village in Rohnert Park, California has won the 2008 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) for its plans as the first One Planet Community in North America.

GEELA is the California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor. The award program recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership for voluntary achievements in conserving California's resources, protecting and enhancing the environment, and building public-private partnerships.

Sonoma Mountain Village won the sole award for Comprehensive Land Use Planning and is one of only 21 other recipients that will accept awards at tonight's ceremony in Sacramento.

"I'm proud to honor this year's award recipients for their sustained commitment, innovative solutions and strategic investment to protect our environment and boost our economy," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Tonight's honorees have shown extraordinary leadership in modeling environmental stewardship with long-term goals in mind. California's long history of environmental leadership is due in large part to the companies and organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to preserving our natural resources."

"We just returned from the Governors' Global Climate Summit where international leaders discussed what can be done in various sectors, so I'm pleased that we have so many people on a local level in a variety of fields showcasing their sustainable initiatives. These are true leaders in today's world of balancing our most precious resources and our growing economy," said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection.

Codding Enterprises, the developer of Sonoma Mountain Village, plans the mixed-use development to be restorative to both nature and cities. Sonoma Mountain Village is its flagship community and is planned as a replicable community in support of restorative redevelopment.

Sonoma Mountain Village is the 1st in North America, and only the 4th in the world to be endorsed and accepted by the prestigious international One Planet Communities program, enabling the entire community to reduce its ecological footprint to a truly sustainable One Planet level. Located 40 miles north of San Francisco in Rohnert Park, California, Sonoma Mountain Village emphasizes a high quality of life with minimal impact on the environment. The goal is simple: Build a neighborhood of 5,000 people that lives well, strengthens our community and restores the environment.

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards program was established in 1993. Recipients are selected by a large panel of evaluators and the Secretaries of Cal/EPA, the Resources Agency, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the State and Consumer Services Agency, and the Governor's Office.

Go to <http://www.sonomamountainvillage.com> for more information about Sonoma Mountain Village. For more information on GEELA and this year's award recipients, visit the Cal/EPA Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/>.