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U.S. Green Building Council - Redwood Empire Chapter Locates Headquarters at Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster

(Rohnert Park, California - March 24, 2009) The U.S. Green Building Council - Redwood Empire Chapter (USGBC-REC) recently opted to locate its headquarters at the Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster (SMBC) development in Rohnert Park.

“The Green Building Council’s decision to locate at the Business Cluster is further evidence that we are indeed becoming a hub for businesses and organizations capable of stimulating regional economic development,” says Michael Newell, executive director of the Business Cluster.

USGBC-REC, representing seven counties in Northern California, is a nonprofit organization that promotes and provides training in LEED® and green building practices. Its 200 members include architects, contractors, developers, manufacturers of green building materials and others interested and involved in constructing environmentally sustainable buildings.

USGB has chapters throughout the country and is perhaps best known for its role in developing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System that has been widely adopted and is now becoming the basis for many cities’ and counties’ green building ordinances.

Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster is a nonprofit business incubator, providing fledgling technology companies with office space, mentoring services, educational opportunities and introduction to potential investors. Its 29,000 square-foot facility includes office spaces of varying sizes, conference rooms with audio/visual equipment, a kitchen, library, demonstration room, storage and a lounge area.

The Business Cluster is located within Sonoma Mountain Village, a sustainable mixed-use community developed by Coddling Enterprises and endorsed by One Planet Communities (a governing body that endorses, measures and provides global networking for communities that meet ten rigorous principles of sustainability).

Sonoma Mountain Village was also selected to participate in a LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot project, a rating system developed by the USGBC for recognizing communities that integrate the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building into their design.

“The Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster, with its emphasis on attracting and stimulating the growth of companies focused on green technology, seems the perfect place to establish a presence for our organization,” says Jon Nyberg, executive director of the USGBC-REC. “There is a natural synergy between our mission and that of the Business Cluster, and we look forward to opportunities for cross-promotion and collaboration.”

USGBC-REC is poised to grow substantially over the next year in terms of its membership and educational offerings. According to Nyberg, who became executive director approximately a year ago, the organization recently launched a six-month green building professional certificate program at Autodesk in San Rafael and will continue to provide LEED training workshops and seminars.

In addition, Nyberg hopes to begin presenting REGREEN seminars on green remodeling techniques for the public. The American Society of Interior Designers’ Foundation and the USGBC partnered on the development of REGREEN best practice guidelines and educational resources.

For more information about the USGBC-REC, go to <http://www.usgbc-rec.org>.

About SMBC

The Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster (SMBC) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit business incubator specializing in sustainable resources and socially relevant technologies. Its mission is to create high value jobs in the North Bay by enabling and accelerating the success of technology startups within a dynamic sustainable and synergistic environment.

More information about Sonoma Mountain Business Cluster can be found at www.somobc.org.