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Promoting Quality Affordable Housing and Community
Development Throughout San Diego County

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Embargoed Until Thursday, June 3 - 8 p.m.

Affordable Housing Awards Presented Thursday Night

San Diego – The San Diego Housing Federation presented its Affordable Housing and Community Development Awards tonight at a celebration at the former Naval Training Center. Awards were presented to Projects of the Year and to several individuals for their advocacy for affordable housing and services to residents.

In addition, Dr. Nico Calavita, professor emeritus at San Diego State University, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award, for his advocacy on behalf of inclusionary housing policies and development. Inclusionary housing requires developers to include homes for those at various income levels in the housing they are developing.

Award winners were:

Outstanding Service to Residents

Jon Walters, The Association for Community Housing Solutions (TACHS), for his service to mentally ill residents.

CSH Supportive Housing Award

Jennifer LeSar, LeSar Development, for spearheading CCDC's \$10 million set aside for affordable supportive housing and establishing a goal of creating 500 new units of supportive housing.

Outstanding Government Agency

Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego for its pro-active role in helping to ensure the development of two Barrio Logan affordable housing communities by assisting in navigating multiple approvals and rezoning and securing community support.

Outstanding Advocate

Rosemary Johnston, Interfaith Shelter Network, for a decade of work securing shelter and as an advocate for the homeless.

John Craven Memorial Award

Mandy Mills, City of Chula Vista, for her strong advocacy and coordination of city services and approvals on behalf of the Los Vecinos apartment development.

Outstanding Development Partner

Benson & Bohl Architects for their design of the unique Parkside in East Village. The new apartment community and its subterranean parking lot wrap around the East Village Community Church.

Add one/affordable housing award winners

Apartment communities that received awards are:

SDG&E Energy Efficiency Award

Los Vecinos, Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation, Chula Vista, for securing Platinum LEED certification for the new apartment community.

Inclusionary Housing Award

16th & Market, Father Joe's Villages/Chelsea Development, San Diego, for creating 12 stories of affordable family apartments as part of the Petco ballpark development. The apartment project was the result of a negotiated agreement with the Ballpark Village developer to meet the city's needs for affordable rentals rather than for-sale condos.

Housing Project of the Year – Special Needs

Fairweather Lodge, Interfaith Community Services, Escondido, for providing a groundbreaking approach to creating permanent affordable supportive housing, a community living environment, and employment opportunities for people with mental illness.

Housing Project of the Year – Rehabilitation

Turnagain Apartments, Community HousingWorks, Fallbrook, for perseverance in finding ways to overcome federal restrictions in order to maintain affordable apartments and rehabilitate the property which had suffered from years of neglect by its former owner.

Housing Project of the Year – Fewer than 50 Units

Los Vecinos Apartments, Wakeland Housing and Development Corp., Chula Vista, for redeveloping a former blighted motel property through “Re-use and Recycle” principles to incorporate “green building” at every opportunity in creating new highly energy-efficient apartments that create their own solar electricity on-site.

Housing Project of the Year – More than 50 Units

Los Vientos, Las Palmas Foundation/ AMCAL, San Diego, for recycling contaminated land and dilapidated industrial and commercial properties into two buildings of LEED Silver affordable homes.

The San Diego Housing Federation is a coalition of nonprofit and other organizations and individuals working together to produce quality affordable homes for lower income households.