

NEWS RELEASE

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**Housing Commission's office building earns
prestigious "green design" certification***Building is first in San Diego to achieve Silver LEED® status*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) new downtown office building has been awarded LEED® Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is the industry standard of measurement for designing and constructing the world's most environmentally friendly buildings.

SDHC is the first organization in the city of San Diego – and one of only three organizations within the county of San Diego – to achieve LEED Silver Certification. The agency, which moved into its new downtown office building in January 2007, helps more than 80,000 low-income individuals each year with affordable housing.

Located at 1122 Broadway, the building's "green" features include energy-efficient heating, cooling and water systems, natural lighting, and low-emission carpets and paints. Construction materials included recycled content and sustainable resources, such as bamboo wood. The agency has also partnered with CB Richard Ellis and OneSource for "green" janitorial services that include environmentally friendly cleaning products, equipment and processes.

"The San Diego Housing Commission is to be congratulated for achieving LEED Silver Certification," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO, Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "It sends a message that the agency cares about the health of the building's users and employees. This facility is one the community can be proud of."

As another element of the LEED Silver Certification criteria, SDHC encourages its employees and clients to use alternate forms of transportation, made convenient by the building's proximity to the San Diego Trolley and a dozen bus lines. In addition, a bicycle storage room and showers are available to employees who choose to bike to work.

"The San Diego Housing Commission has always been committed to environmentally sound practices and smart growth concepts in the affordable housing developments we have financed over the years," said Elizabeth C. Morris, President and CEO of the Housing Commission. "Achieving LEED Silver Certification for our office building further showcases that commitment."

SDHC's new office building serves as the anchor of a unique project – aptly named "Smart Corner" – that embodies all elements of smart growth: housing, retail and offices on one site; public transit; environmentally friendly; high housing density; diversity of housing prices; and a public-private partnership. The five-story office building includes 93,000 square feet for offices and 25,000 square feet for retail. The top three floors are occupied by SDHC. Ground floor retail and second floor office space are available for lease.

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The San Diego Housing Commission is a public agency working to expand affordable housing opportunities in the City of San Diego. Each year, the agency helps 80,000 low-income individuals with affordable housing through award-winning programs that benefit the city's economy and revitalize neighborhoods. The agency also finances affordable housing development and advises the San Diego City Council on housing policy matters.