

NEWS RELEASE

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**San Diego Housing Commission's Elizabeth C. Morris
garners highest honor from national housing group**

SAN DIEGO – The National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has awarded Elizabeth C. “Betsy” Morris its coveted M. Justin Herman Memorial Award. Morris is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission.

The esteemed lifetime achievement award – which is NAHRO’s highest honor – was given to Morris “in recognition of her outstanding contributions and innovation in the housing and community development field,” according to NAHRO officials. Morris accepted the award at NAHRO’s National Conference in San Diego on Oct. 28, 2007. NAHRO also bestowed the Housing Commission with two Awards of Excellence for development projects spearheaded by Morris: the agency’s new “green” downtown headquarters at Smart Corner, and Fairbanks Ridge, an affordable apartment community in Black Mountain Ranch.

“Betsy exemplifies the very best characteristics of public service,” said NAHRO President Don Cameron. “Her tireless work on behalf of those economically challenged in our society spurs her colleagues on throughout the country. We are pleased to honor her with this award.”

Morris joined the Housing Commission in 1979 and became its President and CEO in 1994. She will retire from the agency on January 15, 2008. Under her leadership, the public agency has grown from an annual budget of \$95 million to \$231.3 million and has greatly expanded its scope of services. Each year, the Housing Commission 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.

NAHRO is a 74-year-old, nationally renowned membership organization of 3,200 housing and community development agencies and 19,500 individual members. The M. Justin Herman Memorial Award is named for a San Francisco redevelopment leader who had set high standards for his industry.

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Biography of Elizabeth C. Morris: <http://www.sdhc.org/qiaboutus1a.shtml>