



Media Contacts:
SDHC: Janine Rojas, 619.578.7554
Redevelopment Agency: Michele St. Bernard, 619.236.6531

April 22, 2008

North Park's Renaissance wins national recognition *Affordable housing community hailed for public-private partnership*

SAN DIEGO – Renaissance North Park received an Award of Excellence from the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies (NALHFA). Renaissance is an innovative, mixed-use development that includes affordable and market-rate housing along with commercial space.

In bestowing the award, NALHFA saluted Renaissance as “a model for affordable housing and redevelopment excellence” that others could emulate. NALHFA applauded the project’s public agency partners (the City of San Diego’s Housing Commission and Redevelopment Agency) and its developers (San Diego Interfaith Housing Foundation and Carter Reese & Associates) for their achievements.

The Renaissance redevelopment project, located on El Cajon Boulevard and 30th Street, addresses the critical need for affordable senior housing while also providing affordable and market-rate homes for families. The community, which features 108 affordable units and 24 market-rate townhomes, pays tribute to North Park’s early years by incorporating Art Deco, Craftsman and Spanish bungalow design styles. Architectural touches include the use of the 1950s Aztec Bowl neon sign and wood from its bowling lanes. A portion of the senior apartment building replicates the original Art Deco façade of the historic Gustafson’s Furniture Store.

The \$32 million project was successful due to public-private partnerships. Nearly \$19 million came from public sources, including the Redevelopment Agency of the City Of San Diego, San Diego Housing Commission and state and federal tax credits.

According to NALHFA, the awards program “recognizes the outstanding efforts and successes of its member agencies and nonprofit organizations. Through the awards, NALHFA strives to highlight achievements in local housing finance – and encourage other agencies to look for new and innovative ways of meeting their affordable housing goals.”

The award was presented to the San Diego Housing Commission at the annual NALHFA Spring Educational Conference, held April 16 – 19 in Los Angeles.

*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- and moderate-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.*

*The **Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego** eliminates blight from designated areas, as well as achieves the goals of development, reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial, and retail districts. Redevelopment is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into deteriorated areas plagued by social, physical, environmental or economic conditions that act as a barrier to new investment by private enterprise.*