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Starbird Youth Center Awarded SILVER LEED Certification

Center is one of the first public buildings in San Jose to combine comfort, utility and environmental conservation

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – The City of San José’s Starbird Youth Center, a Redevelopment Agency project, has been awarded SILVER LEED® certification, established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

“In difficult economic times, improving building performance helps the City’s bottom line,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “The energy efficiency measures and other green practices in place at Starbird Youth Center will bring us one step closer to meeting our Green Vision goals.”

The 3,840 square foot center was constructed with extensive use of recycled materials. It also boasts windows designed to capture sunrays, clerestory windows that allow the hot air to escape from the building, as well as a climate-controlled system that is maintained by a large fan to draw in air in the evening to cool down the building in the summer and a radiant floor heating system to heat the building in the winter. The Center’s large windows naturally illuminate the classrooms and lounge where neighborhood youth are tutored and socialize.

“The Starbird Youth Center has been an important community resource since it opened, providing District 1 youth with a safe place to hang out after school or do their homework,” stated Councilmember Pete Constant. “The Center is a cool building that teaches the youth about the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainable design. It may even inspire the next generation of architects.”

The Center achieved LEED certification for energy use, daylighting, water efficiency and recycled material use, as well as for incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies.

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By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “The Starbird Youth Center efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come.”

Starbird Youth Center is one of the first public buildings in San Jose to combine comfort, utility, and environmental conservation, and is also one of four Redevelopment projects to incorporate green building strategies. The other projects include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Alum Rock Youth Center, as well as the Edenvale Community Center, which is under construction.

The Starbird Youth Center completed construction in July 2007 to replace an outdated center that was previously located on the same site. The center provides a safe place for youth to take classes, receive tutoring, or socialize in the game room and lounge. The Center also features a computer room with high-speed Internet access, a kitchen and a multipurpose room.

“We are proud to build a project like the Starbird Youth Center, a project that benefits the neighborhood by providing a safe gathering place for our youths, and at the same time, provides the community with long-term environmental benefits,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency.

The Starbird Youth Center project stemmed from the 2002 Blackford Neighborhood Improvement Plan in which residents from the Blackford Neighborhood compiled a list of top priorities, the Starbird Youth Center being the top priority. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency and the City of San Jose partnered with project architect Bill Gould Design Art & Architecture and general contractor CalState Construction, Inc. for the environmentally conservative project.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$3.2 million, including \$2.6 million from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and \$550,000 from Park Trust Funds.

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About the San Jose Redevelopment Agency

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 100,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. The USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system is the preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. 35,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED system, comprising over 5.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 91 countries.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. USGBC was co-founded by current President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi, who spent 25 years as a Fortune 500 executive. Under his 15-year leadership, the organization has become the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, influential, education and research organization in the nation. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org

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