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Media Contact: J Public Relations

Lauren Clifford 781.801.0219 / lauren@jpublicrelations.com



**SHERATON SAN DIEGO HOTEL & MARINA AWARDED THE HIGHEST
LEVEL IN CALIFORNIA GREEN LODGING PROGRAM**
*Largest Hotel in Southern California to Receive “Two Palm” Certification,
Allowing Guests Effortless Eco-Friendly Accommodations*

SAN DIEGO, CA (December 14, 2009) – The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina (SSDHM) announced today it has earned the “Two Palm Leadership Level” in California’s Green Lodging Program, the highest level attainable. It is now the most sustainable convention hotel in San Diego and the largest property in Southern California to have earned the ranking.

“This is a significant achievement for the property, and one we are proud to number among our rapidly evolving list of environmentally conscious initiatives,” says Keri Robinson, general manager at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. “San Diego is a top destination for business, leisure and convention travel alike, and our guests along meeting planners are looking for and appreciate our focus on being green and sustainable.”

To achieve the Two Palm Leadership Level, the SSDHM had to meet and maintain seven criteria, including waste minimization and management, reuse and recycling, energy efficiency, hazardous materials management, conservation and management, freshwater resource management and environmentally and socially sensitive purchasing policies.

Among the improvements made to the SSDHM under its forward-thinking green initiatives are:

- Electricity generated on-site by Fuel Cell Power Technology; the SSDHM was the first hotel in North America to be fully powered by this “ultra-clean” source of electricity. The byproduct waste heat is recaptured to heat pools and hot water.
- Cuisine crafted from locally grown, organic and sustainable products; Starbucks in hotel’s main lobby offering Fairtrade and Shadegrown options.
- Extensive back of the house practices including all eco-friendly cleaning and laundry products. Food waste from the kitchen is dehydrated on-site and taken with the landscaping waste to be composted off-site.
- A thorough list of green meetings/events practices, including the onsite FedEx Office, which enables planners to minimize carbon emissions associated with shipping supplies and to print on recycled content/FSC paper. The in-house audio visual company utilizes EnergyStar-compliant equipment with LED lighting for their meeting room services.
- Recycling bins in each guest room and a progressive in-room “Make a Green Choice” program rewards guests for choosing to conserve water, energy and chemicals.

As a result of the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina’s sustainability efforts, 2009 has reduced its consumption of water by 15%, electricity by 6% and gas by 6% over prior year.

The CA Green Lodging Program was developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to provide travelers with a green option for their lodging needs. It is currently operated by the Department of General Services as part of the State Travel Program.

ABOUT THE SHERATON SAN DIEGO HOTEL & MARINA



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The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina offers 120,000 square feet of events and meeting space, 1,053 guestrooms, featuring five restaurants and lounges, three outdoor swimming pools and Link@Sheraton. It is located at 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. For more information call 619-291-2900 or visit www.sheratonsd.com

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