



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM LAUNCHES GREEN BUILDING TASK FORCE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – At the close of Earth Week, Mayor Newsom today announced that by mid-June, his Green Building Task Force would issue recommendations for increasing the number and quality of green buildings in San Francisco.

Assembled as part of his Clean and Green Initiative and Climate Action Plan, the Mayor's Green Building Task Force is charged with developing expanded green building standards for major new private construction projects in San Francisco.

The Task Force is composed of leaders in the fields of sustainable design, real estate development, finance and construction and will advise the Planning Department, the Department of Building Inspection, the Department of the Environment and other city agencies on the development of new regulations and incentive programs to support the construction of green buildings in the City.

The Task Force follows the successful introduction of new priority permitting for private development projects that meet a minimum 'gold' standard under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process. In 2004, the City mandated that all City projects meet - at minimum – the LEED 'silver' standard.

"In just a few short months, the City's fast-track permitting process has resulted in more than a dozen proposals for new green buildings," said Mayor Newsom. "The Green Building Task Force has built on that momentum and will look at the next steps that we can take to keep San Francisco at the forefront of environmentally responsible urban development," continued the Mayor.

As part of its mandate, the Task Force will also consider additional incentives to foster environmentally sensitive design and greater sustainability features in new development projects.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the construction and operation of conventional buildings uses 35% of all energy the nation consumes, and is responsible for 35% of the material that goes to landfills. In addition, conventional buildings use 30% of all wood and other raw materials consumed and contribute to 35% of the carbon dioxide produced nationwide.

In contrast, green buildings maximize energy efficiency and resource utilization. Green buildings have significant advantages in providing healthy indoor environments for employees, employers, and residents.



Corporate productivity studies show natural lighting and natural ventilation in offices can improve employee productivity by as much as sixteen percent.

Green Building Task Force members include:

- Ms. Kirsten Ritchie of Gensler, an international design firm
- Ms. Margie O'Driscoll of the American Institute of Architects
- Mr. Ken Cleaveland of the Building Owners and Managers Association
- Mr. Ezra Mersy of Jackson Pacific Ventures, a San Francisco-based housing developer
- Mr. Charles Breidinger, a San Francisco-based engineer, developer and member of the Building Inspection Commission's Code Advisory Committee
- Mr. Ken Seibel of Tishman Speyer, an international property development and management firm
- Mr. Peter Liu of the New Resource Bank, a financier of sustainable projects and organizations
- Mr. Bill Worthen of Simon and Associates, a San Francisco-based green building consulting firm
- Mr. Mike Kerwin of Lorax Development, a local construction firm specializing in sustainable design
- Mr. Phil Williams of Webcor, a California-based construction and project management firm
- Staff from the Mayor's Office of City Greening, Building Department, Planning Department, and Department of the Environment

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