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Non-profit Housing Association to Honor Supervisors Don Gage and Jim Beall for Contributions to Affordable Housing

SAN JOSE, CALIF. – Supervisor James T. Beall, Jr., and Supervisor Donald F. Gage, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, will each be honored as a “Distinguished Public Official” for contributions to affordable housing and the creation of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County. The awards will be presented tonight at the 10th Annual Non-profit Housing Association Affordable Housing Leadership Awards, from 5-7 p.m. at the City Club of San Francisco.

“We are committed to making affordable housing available in Santa Clara County,” said Supervisor Jim Beall. “The County’s mission is to serve the poor and the vulnerable, people for whom stable housing can make a huge difference.”

Under the leadership of Beall and Gage, the County of Santa Clara has been at the forefront of the affordable housing issue. Gage and Beall are founding board members of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County, which was formed 1997 to create more affordable rental housing, first-time homebuyer opportunities and housing assistance for the homeless. With their leadership, the County was the first to donate \$1 million to the Housing Trust. And since its formation, the County has contributed more than \$3.5 million. Leadership gifts by the County leveraged an additional \$21.5 million in private and public contributions to the Trust.

Since its inception, the Housing Trust has invested \$17.6 million to leverage \$750 million in funding, and helped create housing opportunities for 4,435 households through three program areas – homelessness prevention, creation and preservation of affordable apartments, and support for first-time homebuyers. The Housing Trust is a unique public/private partnership formed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, the Santa Clara County Collaborative on Housing and Homelessness, and the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley.

“Funding affordable housing projects makes a huge difference for those who need a little help in bringing stability to their lives,” said Supervisor Don Gage, who has served as chair of the Housing Trust since its inception.

Gage is chair of the County’s Housing Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee. He has chaired the Four County Ag-Worker Housing Task Force that included representatives from counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey, as well as housing advocates, and local growers.

Under the leadership of Gage and Beall, the County continues to create affordable housing. In July 2002, the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing was established to address the lack of affordable housing in the area. The Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation to identify and set aside \$18 million in funding.

Beall, chair of the County Children, Seniors and Families Committee is committed to addressing the issue of affordability and its impact on the health, social and economic opportunities for youth in Santa Clara County. He created the Santa Clara Housing Task Force, an intensive, community planning effort that identified solutions to the housing crisis that established the first County Office of Affordable Housing.

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