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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Santa Clara Certifies 135 New Green Businesses
Businesses Take Steps to Lower Consumption and Reduce Waste

San Jose, CALIF. - Many businesses throughout Santa Clara County and the Bay Area are working hard to let consumers know about the measures they are taking to preserve the environment and to "go green." While many businesses are more environmentally conscious today than ever before, consumers are increasingly unclear about exactly what going green means. In the County of Santa Clara, Certified Green Businesses adhere to exacting guidelines that ensure each Certified Green Business in the County is taking steps to lower water and energy consumption, reduce waste, and prevent pollution.

"Santa Clara County was one of the first counties in California to adopt the Green Business Program," said Supervisor Pete McHugh. "The hard work of our dedicated County staff and our community partners all these years is now reaching a critical mass with the total number of certified businesses almost doubling from last year to this year."

The County of Santa Clara Green Business Program, created in 1996, has certified 299 businesses in the county ranging from restaurants to automotive repair shops, from entire office buildings to landscaping businesses. The Green Business Program is a compliance plus program.

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Each certified business must be in compliance with all environmental regulations and then go above and beyond to further reduce their impact on the environment. While each business's needs and goals are different, one thing remains the same: their commitment to protect the environment through 'green' practices.

There are many measures that Certified Green Businesses can implement. Checklists for automotive repair and body shops, hotels, landscapers, restaurants, offices and schools and more have been developed so that specific business needs can be met in ways that greatly reduce the "environmental footprint" or negative environmental impact.

"These businesses are great examples of being environmentally conscious and responsible in day to day operations," said Elizabeth Constantino, Program Manager of the Integrated Waste Management Division, which oversees the Green Business Program. "The Green Business Program allows businesses to enter a voluntary program that brings validity to the term Green Business through a stringent program which verifies environmental measures taken by the business."

On September 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., the County Board of Supervisors will honor the efforts of 135 Santa Clara County businesses that have taken the steps and made the effort to become certified or recertified during Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Board Chair, Pete McHugh will present proclamations to the businesses. The event will take place at 1555 Berger Drive in San Jose, in the 1st floor auditorium. These same businesses were recognized at the September 9, 2008 Board meeting with a Resolution presented by the Board of Supervisors.

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