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**County Supervisor Kniss Appointed Chair of the
National Association of Counties' Sustainability Leadership Team**

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— Supervisor Liz Kniss, representing the County of Santa Clara at the National Association of Counties (NACo), has been appointed by NACo President Don Stapley as the new Chair of NACo's Sustainability Leadership Team.

"Sustainability encompasses issues ranging from air quality and environmental protection to housing transportation and land use," said Supervisor Liz Kniss, District 5. "As the new Chair of the Sustainability Leadership Team at NACo, I will work with my colleagues to further define the meaning of sustainability and bring the message to our Washington leadership."

Supervisor Kniss, together with her colleagues in the Board of Supervisors, has played a leadership role in adopting environment-friendly policy and practices in Santa Clara County. Under this leadership, the County has invested \$3.2 million in energy conservation projects and achieved nearly \$1 million per year in energy savings over the past few years. Each year, over 2.3 million pounds of hazardous waste are collected through the County's Household Hazardous Waste Program. Supervisor Kniss championed the creation of the County's Integrated Pest Management program to reduce pesticide use on County properties, including its 28 regional parks. The County has created a Viewshed policy to preserve foothills. It also certifies green businesses, installs energy-efficient traffic lamps on expressways, and provides food composting education at no cost to the public.

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"I strongly support 'green' principles because they help to make sure we are doing the right thing for current and future generations," said Supervisor Kniss. "Approaches that are sustainable help to protect the environment, improve the health of the economy, and create vibrant places for people to live."

NACo represents county governments in the United States. It was founded in 1935, and has a membership of more than 2,000 counties. The organization represents over 80 percent of the nation's population.

"Kniss has been a strong advocate for sustainability at the local level," said Stapley. "Her leadership in this area will be an asset to NACo's team."

Supervisor Kniss has been the Board's delegate to NACo for the past five years. In addition to representing Santa Clara County as the Chair of NACo's Sustainability Team, Kniss is also on NACo's Health Steering Committee, the Large Urban County Caucus and the County Hospital Task Force.

About NACo's Sustainability Leadership Team

The Sustainability Leadership Team supports the leadership of NACo and assists counties in developing long-term policies and programs that will lead to environmental stewardship, social well-being, and economic enhancement. It provides guidance and direction on a full range of local government challenges.

The Sustainability Leadership Team is comprised of a diverse group of county leaders. It helps to assure that the principles of sustainability are represented in the policymaking process.

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