



CONTRA COSTA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTRA COSTA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
RECEIVES DUAL 'GREEN' CERTIFICATIONS**

***OFFICE HEADQUARTERS AWARDED LEED®
SILVER STATUS FROM THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC),
CCAR RECEIVES GREEN CERTIFICATION FROM CONTRA COSTA COUNTY***

WALNUT CREEK, CA, May 16, 2011—The Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® has received two, independent certifications for its commitment to best green practices and sustainability. Their new Walnut Creek headquarters building has been awarded a Silver-level LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the nation's most widely recognized and accepted green building rating system.

During a ceremony held May 3, 2011 in the Contra Costa County Supervisor Chambers in Martinez, California, CCAR President Fred Weston and Terrylynn Fisher, Chair of the CCAR Make it Green Committee, received a citation and plaque from the County Board of Supervisors and the Contra Costa Green Business Program. CCAR was specifically cited for achieving measured benchmarks to minimize waste and energy use at its 1870 Olympic Boulevard facility.

"It's easy to say you're going to promote ideas like sustainability and so-called 'green' practices, but we've put them into action," noted CCAR President Weston. "We've made a very serious commitment to our community and environment and it's very gratifying to be recognized for it."

CCAR's headquarters, which opened in January 2010, was also designed to achieve LEED certification for water and energy efficiency, material use and a variety of other sustainable strategies.

"Our green and LEED certification is the culmination of a multi-year effort to put CCAR at the forefront of community sustainability," remarked Terrylynn Fisher, Chairperson of CCAR's Make it Green Committee. "Our effort is an example to others in our community, and further highlights

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the importance of adopting sustainable concepts that directly impact our quality of life, where we live and where we work.”

Some of CCAR’s efforts and sustainable features include:

- The design of CCAR’s building maximizes the use of natural light;
- Compact fluorescent lamps were applied as part of the office layout and use nearly 80 percent less electricity; exit signs were updated with LED lamps that have a long life and use little energy;
- The windows in the building have efficient thermal properties. They reduce solar heat gain which lowers the overall amount of energy that needs to be used to cool the building to a comfortable temperature;
- CCAR staff use high-recycled content paper products; CCAR kitchen pantries are stocked with reusable glass and china, rather than disposable cups and plates;
- CCAR uses efficient irrigation techniques and more drought tolerant plants;
- CCAR staff recycles all potential pollutants such as batteries and ink-jet cartridges;
- CCAR has employed several water-saving fixtures throughout the office including low-flow fixtures;
- Maintenance personnel use low-impact cleaning and pest management practices.

“CCAR’s LEED certification is validation to our ongoing efforts to promote environmental stewardship and create a healthy work environment for our employees,” commented Sheiren Diaz, CCAR CEO. “We are proud to have achieved this level of success through our green practices and hope that our accomplishments serve as an example for others in our community.”

About Contra Costa Association of REALTORS®

The Contra Costa Association of REALTORS® is one of the leading providers of technology based tools to REALTORS® in the nation. CCAR also conducts ongoing classes, training and seminars spanning a wide range of topics and information that are available to both REALTORS® and the public. CCAR is located at 1870 Olympic Blvd, Ste 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit **www.usgbc.org**.

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Please visit CCAR's website at www.ccartoday.com for more information or call CCAR PR Strategist, Meghan Pariso at 925.295.9218.

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