

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 2, 2010

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## **Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County Certifies Three Green Businesses**

***Companies to be honored at breakfast event  
Friday, February 5, 7:30 am  
Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria***

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County will celebrate the three most recent Santa Barbara County businesses to achieve the Green Business certification over the past year. The companies most recently certified are: the Tasting Room at Riverbench Vineyard and Winery, AECOM Environment, and Be Green Packaging. Riverbench Winery's tasting room on the Foxen Canyon Wine Trail in Santa Maria offers tastings of their locally produced wines. The Santa Maria area office of AECOM Environment provides comprehensive environmental management services. With corporate offices located in Santa Barbara, Be Green Packaging designs, manufactures, and distributes tree-free, compostable packaging.

Our tasting room is a newly restored 1920's craftsman style house on the historic Foxen Canyon Wine Trail. We invite you to enjoy our wines and exclusive vineyard views in our comfortable yet elegant tasting room.

In addition to these three companies, ten other businesses that have achieved certification during this past year will be honored at the Green Business Program Breakfast. Wes Hagen, Vineyard Manager and Winemaker at Clos Pepe Vineyards and Estate Wines, a leader in sustainable vineyard operations, will give the keynote address.

For more information on these businesses, plus a complete listing of all 15 local Green Businesses, go to [www.greenbizsbc.org](http://www.greenbizsbc.org).

"In its first year, the Green Business Program has had the honor to work with over 60 businesses of all types and sizes, said Program Director Frances Gilliland. "These businesses are committed to our community and go above and beyond to reduce their impact on our environment".

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County is a county- wide effort partnering local governments, agencies, districts, non-profits, utilities, and chambers of commerce. (See list of partners below).

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability. It also helps businesses save money and enhance the environment. Businesses address waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy efficiency and conservation, water conservation, air pollution prevention, and alternative transportation with a checklist tailored to their industry type. The program is free, voluntary, and offers assistance and incentives, including an official Green Business certification and promotion upon completion of various mandatory and a minimum number of voluntary actions.

The program currently offers certification for the office/retail sector, restaurants, automotive shops, and lodging establishments. In the coming years, additional business types will be added to the program.

"Based on the number of companies that have achieved certification plus the number of businesses in the certification process, 2009 was a very successful year for the Green Business Program. To me this means customers, employers and the general public are eager to embrace energy efficiency, the environment, recycle, use alternative transportation and conserve water and natural resources", said Tim Mahoney, with Southern California Gas Company. Also as part of the breakfast event, The Gas Company will be presenting their Energy Smart Award to The County of Santa Barbara.

The Green Business Program also enables the public to find and support businesses that care for our environment. Certified Green Businesses can display a window decal, and consumers can search for businesses on the program's website, <http://www.greenbizsbc.org/index.html>

For more information, go to [www.greenbizsbc.org](http://www.greenbizsbc.org).

Contact information for the certified businesses is available upon request.

#### Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County Partners

City of Buellton

City of Carpinteria

Carpinteria Sanitary District

Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce

Carpinteria Valley Water District

Community Environmental Council

Golden State Water Company

City of Goleta

Goleta Sanitary District  
Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Goleta Water District  
Goleta West Sanitary District  
MarBorg Industries  
Montecito Sanitary District  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
City of Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara County Energy Watch  
County of Santa Barbara Resource Recovery & Waste Management  
County of Santa Barbara Water Agency  
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce  
City of Santa Maria  
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce  
SBCAG Traffic Solutions  
City of Solvang  
Solvang Chamber of Commerce  
South County Energy Efficiency Partnership  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Gas Company  
Summerland Sanitary District  
Waste Management

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