# **Green Building Update**

an Allen Matkins market intelligence publication



April 2, 2009

## Sonoma's new \$100 M green program

North Bay News - March 25

Sonoma County, California has established a \$100 M program. Called the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, the program helps residential and commercial property owners borrow up to 10% of a building's value to fund projects that increase energy efficiency or water savings. The program covers everything from insulation to low-flush toilets to solar panels. The property owner pays back the loan amount through an assessment added to the property tax bill. Payment options include 5, 10 and 20 year terms at approximately 7% interest.

## **DOE's \$3.2 B for energy efficiency improvements**

US Department of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy - March 26

As announced recently by Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, \$3.2 billion from the DOE in energy efficiency and conservation projects will be invested in cities, counties, states, territories, and tribes. Among other things, the funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements.

## **Green Building Focus**

#### Report explores green product certifications

Reuters - March 27

With all things green, there can be confusing and contradictory definitions of what green means, and what certifications for those green projects actually mean. The "Primary Green Product Standards and Certification Programs: A Comparison," by Atlanta-based Air Quality Sciences wants to clear confusion surrounding green labels, and make it easier to choose products based on building and environmental needs. **It explores the following 8 certifications in depth:** (1) Energy Star; (2) WaterSense; (3) Cradle to Cradle; (4) GreenGuard; (5) Green Seal; (6) the GreenSpec Directory; (7) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and (8) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

#### 8th USGBC - LA Green Building Conference

The US Green Building Council - Los Angeles Chapter and Southern California Gas Company will be hosting the 8th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at the Energy Resource Center in Downey. Each year, this event brings together Southland municipal policy makers and implementers along with leading architects and engineers to further the development of a sustainable and energy efficient future. Breakout sessions will feature all aspects of sustainable design, construction, and operations practices for buildings and communities, including their impact on people, climate, the environment, and the economy.

# **Opinion: TARP money should be tied to green building**

Despite billions in TARP money being injected into the banking system, credit continues to decline. Even the most credit worthy developers and operators cannot obtain the loans they need to survive. Citation Capital Partners, Inc. advocates that TARP money should to be allocated to green and sustainable projects through mandates and incentives and not horded by lenders.

## GBI and AIA sign sustainable buildings initiative

Daily Journal of Commerce - March 26

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the Green Building Initiative and the American Institute of Archite agreeing to work together to promote the design and construction of energy efficient and environmentally responsibility. The agreement calls for the two to promote the design of buildings that are energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally responsible. They will provide the following: (1) education and training; (2) educational opportunities; and (3) research economic and environmental performance of green buildings.

# Sunnyvale approves green building ordinance

San Jose Mercury News - March 25

A new green building ordinance was adopted by Sunnyvale, California. The ordinance will phase in requirements and incentives for environmentally sustainable building practices for homes, condominiums and commercial buildings. The green standards will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2010. After meetings with homeowners, property owners, businesses and design professionals, the city delayed the rollout of the ordinance for a year to reduce its impact during the recession.

## **Green material company launches US operation**

Bellingham Herald - March 28

<u>Deltalok</u>, a global company that focuses on green building materials, recently launched its U.S. operations in Ferndale, Washington. The company manufactures a soft soil bag and interlocking units that allow vegetation growth for slopes and walls, providing a green solution to erosion control. Deltalok says it's an alternative for builders and landscapers who currently have to choose between temporary biodegradable material or permanent solutions such as concrete or wire mesh.

## RI wants all new municipal buildings energy efficient

Providence Journal - March 27

Providence RI Mayor signed an order requiring all new municipal buildings to be certified as green facilities. The order mandates that buildings meet one of two nationally recognized standards in energy-efficient construction: (1) LEED certification or (2) the certification under the Collaborative for High Performance Schools ("CHPS").

#### Notable green building projects...

#### 1st LEED certified animal shelter

Mercury News - March 29

The Humane Society Silicon Valley's new 48,000-square-foot shelter in Milpitas will be the first animal shelter in the U.S. to be certified gold under the LEED rating system. As much as 40% of its energy needs will be met by solar panels that will be installed over the summer, and a reflective "cool roof" is expected to reduce the amount of air conditioning needed. The green features added \$2.5 M to the cost of construction, but officials at the center expect to recoup these costs in savings on water and power.

## **Green home makes an impact**

San Francisco Chronicle - March 29

Helmut Schmidt turned his Sunset District house into one of the greenest, most energy-efficient homes in San Francisco. Schmidt created a <u>web site</u> to help others learn how to incorporate more sustainable features into their homes when building or remodeling. Also, the web site serves as a forum for the latest techniques in sustainable construction.

#### 1st High Desert LEED gold warehouse

Daily Press - March 23

An industrial building at Southern California Logistics Airport recently became the first LEED-certified project in the High Desert, recognizing the "green" elements included in the warehouse. It is only the 4th industrial warehouse in California to be awarded LEED Gold certification from the USGBC.

#### LEED for InterContinental San Francisco\_

Hotels Magazine - March 26

The InterContinental San Francisco plans to achieve LEED certification by early 2010. The InterContinental San Francisco is applying for LEED certification in the "existing build operations and maintenance" category (EBOM) and will be evaluated on every facet of the property from construction and design elements to the amenities used in guestrooms.

#### **LEED-EB Gold for Segerstrom Towers**

OC Weekly - March 27

Document hosted at JDSUPRA http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=fba7e706-ffbf-4ffb-a1de-49dbff65fb14

Segerstrom Co. announced its Plaza Tower, Center Tower and Park Tower in Orange County all achieved LEED-EB Gold Certification, the first multi-tenant buildings in California and 3 of the first 4 buildings in the U.S. to receive that particular USGBC distinction. According to Segerstrom, the three towers will reduce CO2 emissions by more than 9.5 million pounds annually and reduce water consumption by more than 3 million gallons yearly.

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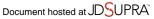
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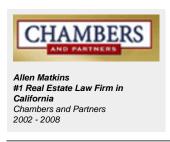


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