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Austin City Hall receives high environmental certification from U.S. Green Building Council

For immediate release

July 27, 2006

The U.S. Green Building Council has announced that Austin City Hall received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, becoming only the second City-owned building in Austin to receive the gold designation.

The LEED Green Building Rating System® is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Other City of Austin buildings with LEED certification include the Combined Transportation Emergency and Communications Center, which earned a Silver certification in 2004 and the Far Southeast Austin Emergency Medical Services Station, which earned a Gold certification in 2005.

With an original goal of obtaining the LEED Silver certification, the City of Austin design team began the project in 2000. The U.S. Green Building Council made the announcement this week after the City of Austin met extensive post-occupancy documentation requirements.

To receive the LEED Gold certification, the Austin City Hall Design Team needed to pursue between 39 and 51 possible points that were related to six major building categories. These categories are:

- Sustainable Sites (14 points/1 prerequisite) meaning the Austin City Hall is in an urban setting and can take advantage of the amenities the location provides. In this category, Austin City Hall obtained a total of 5 points.
- Water Efficiency (5 points) the design team earned points for reducing the amount of water needed for landscape irrigation by over 50 percent and by using recycled water for the plaza water features. A total of 2 points were achieved by the Design Team.
- Energy and Atmosphere (17 points/3 prerequisites) led the design team engineer to estimate a 20-30 percent reduction in the energy load. This being the largest category, the Design Team achieved a total

of 13 points.

- Materials and Resources (13 points) was a difficult category to calculate prior to construction since LEED based the points and the associated percentages on material costs. 6 out of the possible 13 points were obtained in this category.
- Indoor Environmental Quality (15 points/2 prerequisites) indicated that the environmental quality of a building can often be translated into savings that cannot be quantified. In this category, 9 out of 15 possible points were obtained.
- Innovation and Design Process (5 points) offered the Austin City Hall the best opportunity to express its innovative and creative ideas. In this category, the Design Team achieved 5 out of 5 possible points.

“I am delighted that Austin City Hall, the community’s cornerstone of democracy and civic involvement, has received this great recognition,” Austin Mayor Will Wynn said. “That sustainability is a civic virtue that the City strives for in many different areas reflects our success, which is something that all Austinites can take pride in achieving.”

“This certification could not have been accomplished without the coordinated efforts of everyone on the team, including the builder and all of the consultants. We could not have gotten close to gold without the support of the Austin City Council, the City Manager and key City staff,” said Phil Reed, Principal of Cotera+Reed, the lead design firm for Austin City Hall. For a complete listing of all LEED projects in Austin, including City projects, please visit www.usgbc.org.

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