



Central Texas - Balcones Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jane Baxter Lynn

jbaxterlynn@usgbc-centraltexas.org

512-470-9923

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED FOR U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL CENTRAL TEXAS - BALCONES CHAPTER

Diversity across range of disciplines reflects growing influence of region's green building movement

AUSTIN/SAN ANTONIO, TX – Jan. 29, 2010 – The Central Texas - Balcones Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC CT-B), a nonprofit dedicated to accelerating the transformation toward sustainable building and land development practices in Central Texas, announced today its newly elected Board Members for 2010/2011. New members include lawyer Larry Zinn, chief author of the City of San Antonio's Mission Verde Sustainability Plan; Eduardo Parra, project manager with civil engineering firm CDM, and Dana Nichols, conservation manager for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). The board will be chaired by Chapter co-founder James Andrews, a principal at San Antonio-based Overland Partners Architects.

"The impressive and diverse backgrounds of our board reflect the growing influence of the green building movement in our region," said Jane Baxter Lynn, executive director of USGBC CT-B. "It is becoming clear that green building is not simply an environmental issue, but a fundamental economic and social issue as well."

USGBC CT-B 2010 Board of Directors

James Andrews - Chair
Principal, Overland Partners

Effie Brunson - Vice Chair
Sustainable Development Project Manager

Dr. Diana Glawe - Vice Chair
Professor of Engineering, Trinity University

Andrew Kelch – Treasurer
Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors

Erin Zayko - Secretary
Senior Sustainability Project Manager
Lockheed Martin

Gerry Acuna - Board Member
CEO, TRI Recycling

Heather DeGrella - Board Member
Sustainability Programs Director
Sustainable Perspectives Group

Jeff Haberstroh - Board Member
Construction Bond Administrator, Boerne ISD

Liza Meyer - Board Member
Special Projects Manager
City of San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy

Dana Nichols - Board Member
Conservation Manager, San Antonio Water System

Eduardo Parra - Board Member
Project Manager, CDM

Heather Venhaus – Immediate Past Chair
Environmental Designer

Dr. John Walewski - Board Member
Asst. Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M

Larry Zinn - Board Member
Law Office of Larry Zinn

– more –

Kalpana Sutaria, project manager with the City of Austin's Public Works Department, and Cliff Braddock, CEO of RobustEnergy LLC, fill the two alternate board positions.

"2010 promises to be a productive year for the USGBC Central Texas – Balcones chapter in forwarding our mission," said Andrews. "The appointment last April of our first executive director and the subsequent growth in membership and awareness of our chapter's work has continued the momentum already set by our amazingly dedicated group of volunteer leadership."

As chief of staff to San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger from 2005 to 2009, Zinn was the chief author of Mission Verde, the city's ambitious sustainability plan. He also served on the Mayor's Sustainable Building Task Force, which led to the first green building code for San Antonio. He is currently chair of Mayor Julian Castro's Green Jobs Leadership Council.

"Green buildings are critical to achieving sustainability, and the Chapter is the leading organization for green buildings," said Zinn. "During my time as chief of staff to Mayor Hardberger, I had the opportunity to work with the Central Texas - Balcones Chapter on these issues and came to appreciate and admire its work."

Parra serves as one of eight national representatives of CDM's Sustainability Delivery Team, providing liaison between the civil engineering discipline and the sustainability leadership. He works with cities and counties to improve their energy efficiency and has assisted in securing funding for their improvements.

"We need to educate our communities on the necessity and responsibilities of protecting and improving our environment," said Parra. "As a civil engineer I would like to offer concrete ideas and solutions and help the chapter achieve this accelerated market transformation."

Nichols was the primary author of a city ordinance concerning water conservation standards adopted by San Antonio City Council. She developed Watersaver Lane and Watersaver garden – permanent exhibits at the San Antonio Botanical Garden promoting low water use landscapes in the San Antonio region – and developed and edits the WaterSaver e-Newsletter, a weekly publication that gives real time watering recommendations and gardening advice to more than 7,600 people weekly.

"Having worked for 15 years promoting water conservation practices in the San Antonio with SAWS, I am excited about the possibility of fully integrating water conservation into the green building practice," said Nichols.

###

ABOUT USGBC CT-B

The U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas - Balcones chapter (USGBC CT-B) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to accelerating growth in sustainable building and land development practices. Founded in 2003, USGBC CT-B has over 700 members from Austin, San Antonio, Waco and 55 counties throughout Central Texas. The Chapter hosts Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ workshops, holds educational sessions on sustainable technologies and applications, and offers networking events for the region's green-building professionals. To learn more, visit www.usgbc-centraltexas.org.