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### **THREE IRVINE-BASED ENGINEERING FIRMS RECEIVE STATE HONORS**

IRVINE, Calif., March 2, 2004 — Three Irvine-based engineering firms received state level Engineering Excellence Award recognition from the Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC). Hall & Foreman, Inc., Huitt-Zollars, Inc., and Hunsaker & Associates Irvine earned CELSOC's prestigious Merit Award for their work on the Ladera Ranch Storm Water System. Representatives of each firm attended the awards banquet held in Sacramento.

The trio of civil engineering firms collaborated to plan and design the different elements of the integrated flood control and water quality system that supports the Ladera Ranch master planned community in South Orange County. The community is designed to include over 8,000 homes, several shopping centers, an urban activities center, three elementary schools, a middle school, and numerous parks and recreational areas. Additional consultants serving on the team were Kurtz and Associates of Anaheim Hills and Goffman, McCormick & Urban of Rancho Santa Margarita.

CELSOC hosts an annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition to recognize outstanding engineering accomplishments. Entries are rated in five categories: innovative

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application of new or existing techniques; future value to the engineering profession; complexity; meeting the client needs; and social, economic, and sustainable design considerations. The projects are reviewed and selected by a judging panel comprised of engineers drawn from California universities, Caltrans, The Corps of Engineers, public works departments, and other prominent statewide organizations. The awards competition is a three-tiered awards program, which includes Merit Awards, Honor Awards, and the Golden State Award.

The winning projects were displayed at the State Capitol as part of National Engineers Week celebrated February 22-28, 2004. Each year National Engineers Week is celebrated in conjunction with George Washington's birthday. The nation's first President is considered America's first engineer and was also known for his surveying skills.

Hall & Foreman, Inc. is listed on The Zweig Letter Hot Firm 2003 List of the 100 fastest growing architectural, engineering, and planning firms in the United States. Huitt-Zollars, Inc. and Hunsaker & Associates Irvine are both featured on the Orange County Business Journal's Top 30 Engineering Companies List.

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