



Engineering • Surveying • Planning • Landscape Architecture

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## **ORANGE COUNTY ENGINEERING FIRMS RECEIVE STATE HONORS**

*Two local firms are honored with CELSOC Merit Award*

IRVINE, Calif., February 8, 2006 — Two Orange County-based engineering firms received state level Engineering Excellence Award recognition from the Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC). Hall & Foreman, Inc. (HFI) and Goffman, McCormick & Urban Geotechnical, Inc. (GMU) earned CELSOC's prestigious Merit Award for their work on the Covenant Hills project. Representatives from both firms attended the awards banquet held in Sacramento.

Covenant Hills is an exclusive gated village of 1,006 hillside homes sited in the most rugged terrain of the master planned community of Ladera Ranch, CA. The team overcame engineering and geotechnical challenges of rugged topography, significant volumes of earthwork, and stringent storm water quality standards. The development required nearly 50 million cubic yards of earthwork and at its peak 200,000 cubic yards of earth were moved daily. The County of Orange and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control hail the Covenant Hills project as a model for other agencies and developers.

CELSOC hosts an annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition to recognize outstanding engineering and land surveying accomplishments. Entries are rated in five

categories: innovative 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 awards competition is a three-tiered awards program, which includes Merit Awards, Honor Awards, and the Golden State Award.

The winning projects will be displayed at the State Capitol as part of National Engineers Week celebrated February 20-24, 2006. 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.

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*John Hogan and Gary Urban, president of GMU, in Sacramento on January 30, accepting the CELSOC Merit Award for the Covenant Hills Project.*