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**“Western Preservation Leaders Meeting” in San Diego
Focuses on Preserving Historic Places in Parks**

Public Invited to Attend Sessions on Historic Preservation in State Parks and
Preservation’s Role in Fighting Global Warming

San Diego (April 2, 2008) – Preserving historic places in parks is the focus of a three-day “Western Preservation Leaders Meeting” April 10-13 in San Diego. A portion of the conference on Friday, April 11, focusing on historic preservation in state parks and preservation’s essential role in fighting global warming, will be free and open to the public.

Preservation leaders and professionals from eight western states will examine preservation successes and the ongoing threats to historic resources during a series of panel discussions and tours of San Diego’s unique heritage. The ultimate goal of the meeting is to develop methods for building public support and enhancing public-private partnerships for funding, protecting and preserving historic resources, such as California’s state parks, 48 of which face closure under Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s 2008 budget.

The meeting is being convened by the National Trust for Historic Preservation Western Office in partnership with Save Our Heritage Organisation and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, with financial support from the California State Parks Foundation. The keynote address will be given by California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman on Friday, April 11, at a luncheon at the newly restored Jolly Boy Restaurant, hosted by Delaware North Companies.

The meeting’s tours will cover a wide span of San Diego history, including: the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Old Town, currently undergoing an extensive restoration; the Balboa Theatre, recently restored and reopened to the public after remaining shuttered for decades; and, Chicano Park’s nationally significant collection of murals that illustrate the culture and spirit of the people of Barrio Logan.

The public portion will take place on Friday, April 11 at the historic Temple Beth Israel at Heritage Park in Old Town, and features two panels (they are free and open to the public):

- Forum on State Parks (9:00 – 10:30 AM) featuring
 - Anthea Hartig, Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Western Office
 - Elizabeth Goldstein, President, California State Parks Foundation
 - Blaine Lamb, Chief, Archaeology, History and Museums Div., California State Parks
 - Roger Roper, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
 - Cristie Statler, Assistant Director, Arizona State Parks
- Focus on Sustainability (10:45 AM – 12:00 Noon) featuring
 - Patrice Frey, Director, Sustainability Research, National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - M. Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer, California Office of Historic Preservation
 - Horace H. Foxall, Jr., Architect, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(cont.)

Members of the media are invited to join tours of Old Town on Friday afternoon, the Gaslamp Quarter, the Warehouse District, and Chicano Park on Saturday afternoon, and Balboa Park on Sunday midday.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories. For more information visit www.PreservationNation.org

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