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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT AWARDS LOCAL BUSINESS FOR WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS.**

*The Franciscan Inn receives 2008 Water Steward Award*

Vista, CA—

At its meeting today, the board of directors presented the Vista Irrigation District's (VID) Water Steward Award to The Franciscan Inn in recognition of their outstanding water conservation efforts.

The Franciscan Inn participated in a commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) voucher program to replace older high water using toilets with newer water saving ultra-low flush toilets (ULFT's) that save water and money as well as help ensure we have a healthy water supply and environment.

In November of 2006, The Franciscan Inn replaced 48 old inefficient toilets with new ultra-low flush toilets. In the year since the installation, The Franciscan Inn's usage has dropped by nearly 400,000 gallons which is enough water for two families of four for an entire year. The Franciscan Inn has also seen a reduction of about \$1,000 in their average annual water bill.

In recent years, VID has imported about 90% of the water we use from Northern California and the Colorado River. As these resources are reallocated to environmental and other uses, we have to get by with less and use the water that we do receive as efficiently as possible. Customers, like The Franciscan Inn, help us do exactly that, and we appreciate their contribution.

VID has a number of programs in place to help its customers conserve, including artificial turf and weather based irrigation controller rebates for residential customers as well as the CII voucher and Smart Landscape programs for businesses.

“Implementing water conservation measures results in a benefit to the business and to the community,” said Brett Hodgkiss, administrative manager for the Vista Irrigation District. “We’re happy to recognize business leaders who are making the effort.”

The Vista Irrigation District is a public agency governed by an elected five-member board. The district provides water service to more than 120,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside, and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

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