

## **Governor Names Portola Hotel & Spa Winner of 2011 Top Environmental Leadership Award**

**Sacramento, CA, December 14, 2011-** Today, Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced that Portola Hotel & Spa of Monterey, CA has won a 2011 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) for its outstanding commitment to the environment. Portola Hotel & Spa is one of only 15 other recipients that accepted awards and is the first independent hotel to ever win this award.

GEELA is California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor. The award program recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership for voluntary achievements in conserving California's resources, protecting and enhancing the environment, and building public-private partnerships.

"Portola Hotel & Spa is a true leader," said Secretary for Environmental Protection Matt Rodriquez. "They prove that you can support and promote environmental values without sacrificing your business objectives. They understand that going green can be a successful economic strategy that can also lead to sustainable growth and development."

Portola Hotel & Spa has a history of supporting the environment and has participated in several programs dedicated to conserving environmental resources. From the decorating of the hotel to the way in which they produce electricity, Portola Hotel & Spa maintains their loyalty to the environment.

Janine Chicourrat, General Manager of Portola Hotel & Spa, said, "Our team worked extremely hard to achieve our Silver LEED EB award earlier this year. It is with great pride I work with these professionals and to see them recognized for their dedication to our environment and our hotel."

In addition to winning the GEELA, Portola Hotel & Spa has achieved the U.S. Green Building Council's silver LEED<sup>®</sup> certification. It is the first Green hotel in Central California and is one of only three in California and six in the United States.

Award recipients are chosen in 12 different categories based on their strength in eight specific areas including results, transferability, environmental impact, resource conservation, economic progress, innovation and uniqueness, pollution prevention, and environmental justice.

### **About GEELA:**

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards program was established in 1993. The award program is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency in collaboration with the State and Consumer Services Agency; the Department of Food

and Agriculture; Labor and Workforce Development Agency; the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; and, the Health and Human Services Agency.

For more information on GEELA and this year's award recipients, visit the Cal/EPA Web site: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/>.

### **About Portola Hotel & Spa:**

Portola Hotel & Spa is Monterey's first and only Silver LEED® EB certified hotel and recently earned AAA Four Diamond Rating. The full-service hotel offers guests a rich, historical ambiance, with residential style and a dedicated staff to ensure an unparalleled guest experience. The hotel features 379 newly renovated guest rooms, including 10 suites, ranging from 400 to 1,000 square feet.

Inspired by the Monterey Peninsula's surrounding landscape and nautical heritage, all guest rooms feature elegant wood furnishings, large bathrooms with separate vanity areas, white shuttered windows. Many guest rooms offer private balconies with ocean, garden terrace or pool views. In compliance with LEED requirements, all guest rooms are non-smoking.

Portola Hotel & Spa is home to Jacks Restaurant and Lounge and Peter B's BrewPub, the Monterey Peninsula's only craft brewery. In addition, overnight guests have access to the hotel's spa and fitness facilities, complete with steam room, sauna, outdoor pool and Jacuzzi. The newly renovated 6,000-square-foot Spa on the Plaza offers 10 treatment rooms and an extensive spa menu of signature treatments.

Portola Hotel & Spa offers 25 separate conference/banquet rooms, full-service event technology, catering and outdoor function space. With 50,000 square feet of flexible indoor and 60,000 square feet of outside meeting space, the Monterey Conference Center is the largest conference center on the central coast of California.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.portolahotel.com/>

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