

For Immediate Release
Thursday, September 3, 2015

Most Business-Friendly City Finalists in Los Angeles County Announced
L.A. County's "Most Business-Friendly City" to be named at LAEDC Eddy Awards on November 12th

LOS ANGELES, CA - The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) today announced the finalists for its 2015 *Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County Award*. The cities of Bellflower, Carson, Lakewood, Palmdale, Pasadena and Santa Clarita are finalists for the population 67,000 and over category, and the cities of Azusa, Commerce, El Segundo, Pico Rivera and Vernon are finalists in the population under 67,000 category.

One winner from each category will be announced live at the **20th Annual Eddy Awards®** on Thursday, November 12th, at the Beverly Hilton. Inaugurated in 1996, the Eddy Awards® gala is celebrating twenty years of honoring leadership in economic development, and includes California's only "business-friendly city" award, recognizing cities within L.A. County that are proactively promoting business-friendly programs and services, a critical factor in job-creation.

The finalists were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated priority commitment to economic development
- Excellence in programs and services designed to facilitate business entry, expansion, and retention
- Competitive business tax rates and fee structures
- Availability of economic incentives
- Effective communication with and about business clients

CITIES with POPULATIONS of 67,000 and OVER

Bellflower

Bellflower is a great place to live, work and do business. With the wholehearted support of a community prepared to put its tax dollars where its mouth is, increasing taxes to focus on economic development, together with a progressive City Council and an imaginative and professional city staff, Bellflower aggressively supports its businesses and actively seeks to attract new business and development. Innovative programs like Self-Certification Building Plan Check, the Nonconforming Abatement Action Plan, and the city's commitment to finding a way to say "yes" in advancing new and existing businesses and development, make Bellflower a most business friendly-city.

Carson

Carson has always been a business friendly city where businesses and residents are a true community. Since the city's incorporation in 1968, the city has had a clear shared community vision that values the many positive and important contributions that its

business community provides to the city. This vision is part of a larger partnership with Carson's residents, businesses, and countless community and economic development partners. Carson's 24/7 online project status tracking, and creative site selection assistance for logistics and other companies are some of the many progressive business-friendly practices that make a difference.

Lakewood

Lakewood was built as the largest planned community in America in the early 1950s. Attracting new business was key to Lakewood's original success then and the city continues that priority today. Lakewood offers expedited building plan checks and, for many projects, over-the-counter plan approvals, which allows for the prompt, professional turnaround of development requests. An innovative "Shop Lakewood" publicity program and other services welcome new businesses and promote them to local residents. It's why local and national businesses continue to come to Lakewood.

Palmdale

Palmdale is business friendly because it does the big things and the little things that businesses find important. Big things like offering ample and affordable space, a highly skilled and motivated workforce, incentives, outstanding infrastructure, and a solid transportation plan for the future. And lots of little things, too, such as making monthly visits with the Mayor to local businesses, personalized service by staff, publicizing and hosting grand openings and celebrations, and building lasting relationships. Maybe that's why John Novak, President of Patton's Steel called Palmdale "the most accommodating City we've ever worked with."

Pasadena

The City of Pasadena is a thriving community located at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Pasadena boasts a quality of life that is recognized nationally and is home to some of the most successful technology, finance, and engineering companies in the world. With a highly educated workforce that enjoys a dynamic range of amenities and support services, Pasadena offers everything businesses and their employees want in a location. The City of Pasadena is dedicated to the continued formation of a fertile environment that encourages commerce and innovation.

Santa Clarita

The City of Santa Clarita's economic development approach focuses on a team concept. When a business is looking to expand or relocate in Santa Clarita, the city and community partners work with the business to find solutions together. To aid in collaborative efforts, Santa Clarita has a network of business development services available, streamlined permit processes and several business incentives and advantages which make doing business in the City easy and cost effective.

CITIES with POPULATIONS UNDER 67,000

Azusa

A new Azusa is emerging, with a promising future. The City understands the need to work with businesses to create a vibrant city. The word “problem” or “no” is not in the city's vocabulary. Instead Azusa uses the words "challenge" and "solutions" to create a business friendly environment. City staff learn lessons from the projects they work on and review and analyze outcomes to see how they can improve processes and outcomes. They celebrate their successes and promote their wins.

Commerce

The Model City – It is not a saying, but a belief. Incorporated in 1960 by a band of business leaders, the City of Commerce became the 67th City in Los Angeles County. These volunteers proclaimed their intention to establish a model city with unique advantages for industry and residents alike. Today (five decades after incorporation), Commerce is a dynamic city, which has effectively recycled old heavy industrial sites with high technology, office, warehouse and retail uses. The city offers exceptional recreation and social service programs and provides superior-quality public safety, transportation, and community development services to all residents and businesses.

El Segundo

No other city can match the creative, cutting edge technology and manufacturing of El Segundo. Home to many Fortune 500 companies, El Segundo is home to Mattel, the world's largest toy manufacturer, and DirecTV, the country's largest satellite television operator. And El Segundo has been labeled the Aerospace Capital of the World. Consistently over the last 100 years, the city has followed a hands-on and active approach in partnering with its businesses. El Segundo is poised for a new generation of entrepreneurial excitement, energy and invention. Business thrives in El Segundo. It always has. It always will.

Pico Rivera

The City of Pico Rivera is proud to serve its residents and ever expanding business community as one of the most business-friendly cities in Los Angeles County. By implementing a combination of one-on-one and collaborative assistance services, the City successfully and efficiently channels its limited economic development resources into action. Such actions have resulted in the development of new shopping centers and industrial facilities attracting new businesses and services for residents, and the continued retention and expansion of the City's established businesses. City Officials and staff continue to create incentives and cultivate meaningful business relationships that support and foster success.

Vernon

Vernon is the industrial heart of Southern California. When the City incorporated in 1905 the first reason listed was “to promote and advance manufacturing industries” For more than a century the ‘exclusively industrial’ city has been home to major manufacturers, processors and distributors. Vernon businesses employ more than

50,000 people from communities throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. Vernon's 1,800 businesses include manufacturers of apparel, furniture, glass, electronics, paper products as well as business logistics companies. Notably these include Farmer John, True Religion, BCBG, Whole Food Markets, General Mills, Tapatio Hot Sauce, and Overhill Farms.

About the Eddy Awards® www.laedc.org/eddy

The Eddy Awards® were introduced by LAEDC in 1996 to celebrate individuals and organizations that demonstrate exceptional contributions to positive economic development in the region, consistent with LAEDC's focus on increasing shared prosperity for residents and communities of our region. The Awards are presented at the annual Eddy Awards gala dinner, where leaders come together to share ideas, and will be held this year on November 12, 2015 at the Beverly Hilton. For sponsorship and event information, please contact Rick Moelis at (213) 236-4812 or <mailto:rick.moelis@laedc.org>.

About the LAEDC www.laedc.org

As the Southern California region's premier economic development organization, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) provides economic development leadership to promote a globally competitive, prosperous and growing L.A. County economy to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities and enable those residents to meet their basic human need for a job. We achieve this through objective economic research and analysis, strategic assistance to government and business, and targeted public policy. Our efforts are guided and supported by the expertise and counsel of our business, government and education members and partners. The LAEDC is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(c)(3).

For more information contact: Lawren Markle, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Lawren.Markle@LAEDC.org, 213-236-4847