

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Elizabeth C. Morris inducted into  
California Housing Hall of Fame**

*High honor recognizes visionary leaders in affordable housing field*

SAN DIEGO – Elizabeth C. Morris, President & Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission, has been inducted into the California Housing Hall of Fame. The prestigious honor, given by the California Housing Consortium (CHC), recognizes Ms. Morris for her 35 years of service and leadership in the affordable housing field.

To be inducted into the California Housing Hall of Fame, an individual or organization must demonstrate visionary leadership, innovation, effectiveness, inclusiveness, impact, tenure, collaborative spirit, inspirational records of service, and substantial contributions toward advancing affordable housing issues and causes in California.

“CHC’s Board of Directors was extremely pleased to induct Betsy into the California Housing Hall of Fame in recognition of her long-standing leadership on housing issues most critical to serving very low-income residents, particularly in San Diego,” said Jeff Loustau, Executive Director of the Consortium. “Over the past quarter century, she has expanded the role of the San Diego Housing Commission from a traditional public housing agency to a housing finance partner responsible for over 12,000 units of quality rental and ownership housing.”

The California Housing Consortium is a statewide housing advocacy organization representing the development, building, financial, and public sectors in a non-partisan effort to advance enlightened housing policy that addresses California’s affordable housing needs. From sustaining catalytic public funding to improving land use planning and pursuing regulatory reforms, CHC is actively engaged in expanding rental and homeownership opportunities for low-and-moderate income Californians.

California Housing Hall of Fame inductees range from private and nonprofit developers, lenders and investors, to visionary public sector leaders and philanthropic foundations. Ms. Morris was recognized in the public sector category. Other 2007 inductees included Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as Community HousingWorks, a San Diego-based nonprofit affordable housing developer led by Executive Director Sue Reynolds.

**About Elizabeth C. Morris**

Ms. Morris joined the San Diego Housing Commission in 1979 and became its President & CEO in 1994.

Under her leadership, the public agency has grown from an annual budget of \$95 million to \$231.3 million, and has expanded its role and mission to encompass three areas of work:

- As a traditional public housing agency, the San Diego Housing Commission helps more than 12,400 families pay rent in private housing; owns and manages nearly 1,750 apartments; and provides residents with academic support and career development tools.
- As a housing finance partner, the agency helps nonprofit and for-profit developers create affordable housing (12,000 affordable units built to date); has provided technical and financial assistance to 4,300 home buyers and 10,000 low-income owners of homes in need of repair; assists in development of supportive housing; and manages an extensive loan portfolio.
- As a policy advisor, the agency helps shape local affordable housing programs by advising the San Diego City Council on housing policy matters.

Of her major accomplishments at the San Diego Housing Commission, Ms. Morris is most proud of helping create a local affordable housing trust fund; successfully advocating for inclusionary zoning; and building collaborations to house individuals with special needs, especially persons with debilitating illnesses. Ms. Morris also spearheaded the relocation of the agency's headquarters to a new "green" office building at Smart Corner, a mixed-use, transit-oriented development in downtown San Diego.

Recognized as a national leader in affordable housing, Ms. Morris chairs the Legislative Network for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and is past chair of its national housing policy committee. She has addressed the U.S. Congressional Women's Caucus on affordable housing issues and served as an American delegate for several international housing policy forums. She actively seeks workable solutions to address chronic homelessness, having served as a consultant to the National Institute for Mental Health and on the California Senate President's Task Force on Homelessness.

Ms. Morris is president of Housing Development Partners and former president of the California Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies. She is a member of Lambda Alpha International, an honorary society for land use professionals, serves on numerous local boards, and has been honored by various civic organizations for her contributions.

*For more on the California Housing Hall of Fame:*

[www.calhsng.org/CHCHallOfFame\\_2007.asp](http://www.calhsng.org/CHCHallOfFame_2007.asp)

*For more on the San Diego Housing Commission:* [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org)

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*The San Diego Housing Commission is a public agency working to expand affordable housing opportunities in the City of San Diego. Each year, the agency helps 80,000 low-income individuals with affordable housing through award-winning programs that benefit the city's economy and revitalize neighborhoods. The agency also finances affordable housing development and advises the San Diego City Council on housing policy matters.*