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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Honors Hermosa Beach
For Protecting Ocean from Pollution and Saving Water**

Pier Avenue Beautification Project Singled Out for "2010 Environmental Achievement Award"

HERMOSA BEACH – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented a "2010 Environmental Achievement Award" today to the City of Hermosa Beach for its contribution to protecting the beaches from pollutants and the city's water conservation efforts with the design and recent completion of the Pier Avenue Beautification project.

The EPA's Region 9, Pacific Southwest Division presented the award to Hermosa Beach as part of the agency's 40th Anniversary Celebration at a meeting at Union Station in downtown Los Angeles today.

The city was the winner in the category of "low-impact development for water quality." The EPA singled Hermosa Beach out for recognition because the city's Pier Avenue Beautification Project includes the "sustainable use of low-impact development techniques" and serves as a model for conserving "scarce water supplies by replenishing groundwater and capturing dry and wet weather urban runoff for beneficial use."

"We are thrilled the EPA recognized the city for protecting the ocean from pollutants by capturing and treating stormwater along Pier Avenue and for conserving water by recycling the treated stormwater for irrigation," said Hermosa Beach Mayor Peter Tucker. "The City of Hermosa Beach is committed to protecting the environment, and the Pier Avenue Beautification Project is a shining example of how a city can create a cleaner and greener community for us all."

The City of Hermosa Beach used federal stimulus funds, state grants and bond funds that could only be spent on a project like this to finance the \$4.3 million Pier Avenue Beautification Project. As part of the project, the city installed an innovative infiltration/storm drain system that captures trash, stormwater and urban runoff from a 36-acre drainage area before it can pollute ocean waters. Once captured, the system treats the polluted water and infiltrates it for deep root irrigation and groundwater recharge along Pier Avenue. The system is unique because the storm drain component plays an auxiliary role in management of run-off and is only activated as the infiltration systems reach capacity.

Above ground, workers completely refurbished upper Pier Avenue by resurfacing the street and installing wider sidewalks, a center median lined with palm trees, more attractive paving and new street lights, additional seating and new bus shelters. They also erected attractive new streetlights decorated with hanging flowerpots and colorful banners created by local artists. RRM Design Group designed the project, and the Pima Corp. completed the construction.

About Hermosa Beach

Founded in 1907, Hermosa Beach is known as "the best little beach city." It is a thriving community of some 20,000 residents located on the southern end of Santa Monica Bay in Los Angeles County, and its beaches have been ranked among the best in the world. To learn more, please visit www.hermosabch.org

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