FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Elizabeth Fitzsimons (619) 595-4513
Cell (619) 694-8463

"GREEN" THINKING SAVES COUNTY'S TAXPAYERS MILLIONS
Innovative Policies, Practices Protect Environment and Future

WHAT: From a re-circulating water filtration bacteria zapper to the heat reflecting cool roof and solar panels on a state-of-the-art long-term care facility, the County of San Diego is finding more ways to protect the environment and save taxpayer money.

WHEN: 9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20

WHERE: Board Chambers, Third Floor, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego

WHO: Board of Supervisors, CAO Walt Ekard

VISUALS: Video presented to the Board, available on County's Web site, www.sdcounty.ca.gov, and YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/countysandiego.

BACKGROUND: County CAO Walt Ekard challenged all departments to find ways to "green" their business operations.

- The County's goal is to reduce its electricity consumption by 1 percent per square foot per year – through energy tune-ups in existing buildings and LEED-certified green building design in all new facilities. The San Elijo Visitor Center was recently given LEED Platinum certification, one of only two buildings in the entire county – public or private – with that distinction.
- Since the 2000 energy crisis, the County has cut its electricity use by 14 percent per square foot and its natural gas use by 9 percent per square foot – a savings of $11 million.
- Seven County facilities now have panels converting sunlight into electricity, and the County plans to install solar panels on more buildings.
- Toilet flushometers at the George Bailey Detention Facility save the County more than 24 million gallons of water a year – 10 percent of the water used at that site and 4 percent of the water used by the County.
- County departments – from Family Resource Centers, to the Sheriff and Child Support – are scanning thousands of case files and maintaining records electronically, saving paper, money and storage space.

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