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Contacts:

Beryl Anderson
Communications Manager

w/925-947-3535 & c/925-451-8376
banderson@SaveMountDiablo.org

Title: Mount Diablo's Sight Will be Restored: Beacon Fund Campaign is Complete

Photos: hi-res link at bottom

Last week, the "Eye of Diablo", the historic aviation Beacon which sat atop Mount Diablo since 1928 and shined in honor of those who served at Pearl Harbor each December 7th, was lifted off of its perch to undergo much needed restoration. Save Mount Diablo, the non-profit organization overseeing the Beacon Restoration Project on behalf of California State Parks, received the final \$10,000 needed to repair the aging and weathered Beacon. "The scope and magnitude of the response to Beacon restoration effort have been overwhelming," said Ron Brown, Save Mount Diablo's Executive Director.

Many donors and businesses have stepped up to help make the project possible for the community in honor of all who served at Pearl Harbor. The final \$10,000 came from Chevron who had initially installed the aviation beacon as Standard Oil. "Chevron is proud to partner with Save Mount Diablo on the restoration of the historic beacon atop Mt. Diablo," said Linda Padon, General Manager, Public Policy and Corporate Responsibility for Chevron. "In partnership with the United States Department of Commerce, we built this beacon on the mountain in 1928 in support of the then-burgeoning aviation industry, and are pleased to provide the final contribution needed for its restoration." Chevron also produced videos to aid in the restoration fundraising efforts. The estimated costs to fully restore the Beacon totaled \$100,000 and thanks to a \$50,000 matching grant from the Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation the funds have been raised.

The Beacon Restoration Project has set a fantastic precedent for private, public and non-profit partnerships as many have come together to make sure this heartfelt symbol in the community can be restored despite continued State Park budget cuts. Shell Refinery in Martinez and Maxim Crane donated a crane and rigging crew to safely lift the Beacon off the Summit Building so work could begin. Local companies like Redwood Painting and Global Village are helping to provide some of the services and expertise for the Beacon's repairs. Assembly member Joan Buchannan wrote and helped pass legislation to allow non-profit Save Mount Diablo to oversee the project with support from California State Parks. This project may set an example for more State Park partnerships with businesses and non-profits to continue to manage and maintain its parks.

Thanks to these donated services, any remaining funds after the restoration will be used for future Beacon maintenance. Together, these partners are ensuring that the Beacon will shine over the community for generations to come in remembrance of those who gave their lives for us at Pearl Harbor. "The Beacon not only commemorates Pearl Harbor but is also a shining light to remind us of how precious our freedoms are and the responsibilities we have to one another, our community and future generations," said Brown. The newly restored Beacon will be returned to Mount Diablo's Summit building this fall in time for this December 7th.

Summary:

WHAT – Save Mount Diablo has received the \$100,000 it needed for the Beacon Restoration Project thanks to many generous donors and a \$10,000 check from Chevron which is the final amount needed thanks to a \$50,000 challenge grant from The Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation which matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 for the project.

WHO – Save Mount Diablo and the Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation

WHERE – The Beacon has been lifted off the summit of Mount Diablo and is currently being restored.

WHEN – The Beacon is currently being restored and is slated to be returned to its perch on the Mt. Diablo Summit Building this Fall to shine brightly over our communities on December 7th in honor of those who served at Pearl Harbor.

WHY – The Beacon has fallen into significant disrepair and is being restored so that it can continue to shine in honor to those who serve this county for generations to come. The Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation has matched donations up to \$50,000 to inspire others to contribute to the restoration project so Save Mount Diablo could reach its fundraising goal and restore the Beacon.

Photos: Hi-res images may be downloaded here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6uiz3dbe8zfak83/Eya-NMAoji>

Credits: are included in the file names. Please let contact Beryl for caption requests.

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in more than 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; www.SaveMountDiablo.org ###