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Title: Save Mount Diablo and Partners Received 2013 East Bay Leadership Council Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Collaborative Project

Photos: hi-res link at bottom

Walnut Creek- On September 3rd, the East Bay Leadership Council awarded Save Mount Diablo and its partners the 2013 Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Collaborative Project for the Mt. Diablo Beacon Restoration Project. Their joint efforts sets a fantastic precedent for private, public and non-profit partners to come together to make sure this symbolic and historic artifact could be restored despite the state's budget woes. Together Save Mount Diablo, Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, California State Parks, The Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation, Chevron, Shell, and many other small businesses and community members stepped up to restore the historic beacon atop Mount Diablo.

"The scope and magnitude of the response to the beacon restoration effort has been overwhelming," said Ron Brown, Save Mount Diablo's Executive Director.

The beacon was originally installed and illuminated in 1928 to aid in trans-continental aviation. Shut off following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the beacon has been re-lit every year since 1964 on December 7th in a ceremony honoring the Pearl Harbor Survivors. In 2010, when the beacon light refused to turn and survivors watched in the cold wind, a Save Mount Diablo volunteer scaled the building and slowly pushed the beacon around until it turned on its own. This was not the first problem with the beacon and Save Mount Diablo recognized the need to restore the historically and culturally significant symbol.

"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, to our community and to future generations," said Brown.

With the limited State Parks' budget and a need to move quickly, Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan wrote special legislation for California State Parks to enter into a partnership with Save Mount Diablo for the beacon's restoration. "During these difficult budget times, it is critical that these types of public-private partnerships are encouraged whenever possible... I know that Save Mount Diablo will be an exceptional partner for the Parks Department to work with on this project," stated Buchanan.

"California State Parks has always appreciated our partnerships with non-profit organizations and their volunteers," agreed Danita Rodriguez, Department of Parks and Recreation District Superintendent. "Now, more than ever...these relationships (are) paramount to how we accomplish great and important things."

Save Mount Diablo needed to raise an estimated \$100,000 to restore the beacon. Donations came in from small and large businesses and over 450 individuals. The Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation volunteered to match donations up to \$50,000. Contra Costa Times columnist Joan Morris ran a story asking her readers to contribute.

The final \$10,000 came from Chevron, who as Standard Oil, initially installed the beacon. "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 we are pleased to provide the final contribution needed for its restoration," said Linda Padon from Chevron.

The restoration of the beacon could not have taken place without Shell Oil Refinery in Martinez and Maxim Crane, who donated a crane and rigging crew to safely lift the beacon off the Summit Building. "We're proud to have been a part of the collaborative effort to restore the "Eye of Diablo" for the community, our Pearl Harbor Survivors and most of all those who gave their lives," explained Paul Gabbard, Shell General Manager.

Global Village Construction of Concord provided a secure warehouse space for the beacon during repairs and Redwood Painting donated lead paint removal and painting services. Several other companies, large and small and many volunteers donated expertise or supplies to its repair. This fall, Shell and Maxim Crane will team up with Save Mount Diablo again to place the beacon back on its perch.

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 newly restored beacon will shine brightly this December 7th.

An award ceremony will be held by the East Bay Leadership Council on November 7th, 2013 to acknowledge award winners.

Summary:

WHAT – The East Bay Leadership Council awarded Save Mount Diablo and its partners with the 2013 Philanthropy Award for Outstanding Collaborative Project for the restoration of the historic beacon atop the summit of Mt. Diablo.

WHO – Save Mount Diablo, the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, California State Parks, The Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation, Chevron, Shell, Maxim Crane, Contra Costa Times, Redwood Painting, Global Village Construction, Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan and many other small businesses and community members.

WHEN – September 3rd

WHY – For collaborating on the restoration of the Beacon Project

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 Ashley 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 ###