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## **Metro Honors Employers for Rideshare Programs During 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rideshare Diamond Awards Luncheon**

Metro along with the Ventura County Transportation Commission today honored those employers in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the development and implementation of innovative and successful rideshare programs for their employees.

"In these times of high gasoline prices, it's never been a better time to share the ride, whether it be on public transit, vanpooling or carpooling," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "We recognize these employers today for their hard work throughout the year in encouraging their employees to rideshare."

The prestigious Diamond Corporate Award this year went to UCLA. The award was given in recognition of two decades of outstanding innovations in ridesharing. UCLA began its vanpool program in 1984 and the program continues to grow and evolve to provide cost-effective, safe and reliable transportation alternatives for their employees. UCLA continues to set the standard for other employers in the state.

Other Diamond Award winners included: Vertis, Macy's West, California State University, Dominguez Hills, American Apparel, City of Santa Clarita, California State University, Los Angeles, City of Westwood, City of Thousand Oaks, ARC Simi Valley, WellPoint, Johanson Technology, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Warner Bros., The Walt Disney Company, the Los Angeles Air Force Base, Direct TV, Candle Corporation, Boeing Satellite Systems, The Aerospace Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Raytheon Company, Warner Bros., Los Angeles World Airports, LAUSD, and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Honorable Mention Awards were presented to: Avibank, Californian Institute of Technology, Cal State Northridge, The Getty Trust, Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles Child Support Services, Los Angeles County USC Medical Center, Maguire Properties, Metropolitan Water District, and First Data Corporation.

The Rideshare Diamond Awards were handed out today at a special awards luncheon held at the Millenium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Nominations for the awards were submitted from employers in four categories: Innovative Rideshare Program or Strategy, Outstanding Marketing Program, Individual or Group Achievement and Shoestring Program.

A panel of judges representing the five county transportation commissions in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura reviewed the nominations and selected the winners.

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