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CONTACT:

Anna Vacchi at 619-533-4510 or vacchia@sandiego.gov

Liberty Station Transformation Project Wins International Award

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HONORS CITY FOR THE NTC REUSE PLAN

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego received a 2017 Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in the Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse category for the transformation of the Naval Training Center into Liberty Station. The award will be presented at the IEDC 2017 Annual Conference on Sept. 19 in Toronto.

The Naval Training Center San Diego (NTC)/Liberty Station Redevelopment Project is the ongoing, public-private redevelopment of 430 acres of the former NTC, which opened in 1923 and closed in 1997 under the federal Base Realignment and Closure Act. With extensive public input, the NTC Reuse Plan aimed to recreate jobs lost with the closure, revitalize the then-flagging economy and add recreational amenities – all while celebrating San Diego's rich maritime heritage in a vibrant, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly community.

Spanning more than two decades, the project involved building NTC Park (former Navy Parade grounds), Sail Ho golf course, 349 private homes, two hotels and 1.4M square feet of commercial, educational and civic/arts space. The City leased and sold parcels that are now subject to property tax, allowing tax increment reinvestment in the \$400M redevelopment project.

More than 2,500 San Diegans reside at Liberty Station, enjoying the waterfront NTC Park and Liberty Station's artisan spaces and eclectic restaurants. Nearly 300 businesses employ more than 5,100 people, contributing more than \$13M in property tax revenue. In 2016, Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund activity was \$5.8M, more than double the projected \$2.2M in annual tax revenue. Nearly complete, NTC has become a center of history, tourism, commerce and a "best place to live."

"The redevelopment of the Naval Training Center and Liberty Station shows all that can happen when the whole community – residents, business owners, the master developer and local government – commits and works toward developing a vision of San Diego's future," said Erik Caldwell, Director of the City of San Diego's Economic Development Department. "It's a place for people to live, work, play and enjoy, a new part of San Diego that still honors its rich military and maritime heritage."

Recent additions to Liberty Station include a public market comprised of local vendors and a luxury movie theater and restaurant.

The IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Awards honor outstanding economic development programs around the world each year. The City of San Diego's Economic Development Department also received an IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Gold Award for The Nonprofit Academy.

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