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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DESIGN COMPETITION **Houston Land / Water Sustainability Forum**

The Houston Land / Water Sustainability Forum announces a national Low Impact Development (LID) Design Competition aimed at educating design professionals, built environment decision makers, and the public on the positive impacts of LID. Teams will submit their LID design based on data from three actual properties within the Houston region. Categories are: Suburban Residential Development; Urban Re-Development; and Green Roadway. Registration is open September 1 to October 31, 2009. Submittals are due December 14, 2009. Prize money of \$15,000 will be awarded the winning team from each category.

Competition Objectives:

- Provide a hands-on learning experience through which design, construction and development professionals in the Houston area will gain meaningful experience in working with Low Impact Development methodologies that can be applied to their everyday practices.
- Demonstrate to the local development and civic community the economic, environmental and marketing benefits that are available to those developers and local governmental entities who adopt and innovate with respect to sustainable site development.
- Encourage through the body of work represented by the entries submitted, accelerated adoption of these beneficial techniques for sustainable development in our area.
- Recognize and award winning design teams for their creativity, innovation and application of sustainable site design.

Design Goals:

- Conserve natural resources that provide natural functions associated with controlling and filtering storm water.
- Use LID decentralized site-based planning and design strategies to manage the quantity and quality of storm water runoff.
- Use LID techniques to reduce the amount of runoff by mimicking the natural hydrologic function of the site and matching pre-development hydrology.
- Focus on minimizing and disconnecting impervious surfaces and promoting bio-filtration and evaporation of runoff before it can leave the site.
- Use small-scale landscape features and Integrated Management Practices (IMP) to work as a system to filter, slow, evaporate and infiltrate surface runoff at the source.

The following leaders in their fields will comprise the Expert Judges:

- Civil Engineering – Arthur L. Storey, PE; Executive Director, Public Infrastructure Department, Harris County, TX
- Landscape Architecture – Dana Nunez-Brown, ASLA; Brown+Danos landdesign, inc, Baton Rouge, LA
- Low Impact Development – Larry Coffman; LNSB, LLLC Stormwater Services, Chesapeake Beach, MD
- Architecture – Greg Papay, FAIA; Lake|Flato Architects, San Antonio, Texas
- Hydrology – Stephen Costello, PE; Costello, Inc, Houston, Texas

Eligibility, registration details, category definitions, submission requirements, and details of the jury presentations and awards ceremony can be found at www.houstonlwsforum.org

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For more information on this topic or to schedule an interview please contact Robert Adair at (832)456-1000 or adair@ecosvs.com