

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Lara Wettig
marketing@riverhouse.com
541-390-2401**

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL AWARDS RIVERHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER NOTABLE “SILVER” LEED CERTIFICATION

September 10, 2009, Bend, OR – River’s Edge Investments LLC, owners of The Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center, are pleased to announce The Riverhouse Convention Center, has received LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program for New Construction, Commercial Interiors Category. The Riverhouse Convention Center is the only Hotel & Convention Center Facility in the state of Oregon to be awarded LEED Silver Certification.

“This is a great accomplishment for us and the City of Bend,” said owner Wayne Purcell. It was very important to us that we build a building that blended well with the environment and LEED was a significant way to show our commitment to the environment,” he continued.

Other cities like Seaside and Salem realize tens of millions of dollars annually in economic impact as a direct result of their publicly funded convention facilities. **Seaside Civic and Convention Center’s General Manager, Russell Vandenberg estimates the yearly economic impact to the City of Seaside is more than 30 million.** The Riverhouse Convention Center however, was privately funded by the partners of River’s Edge Investments. Outside of the Oregon Convention Center, The Riverhouse Convention Center is the only other LEED Silver Certified Convention Facility in the state and the largest east of the Cascades.

“LEED Silver Certification gives Bend a tremendous competitive advantage to attract new “green” business to Central Oregon,” stated Purcell. “More than ever, Meeting Planners are looking for environmentally friendly places to hold meetings and events and now Bend can go after that “green” market in a big way. This means more jobs and more money for our local economy during these tough economic times,” he concluded.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

In addition to the customary recycling programs, energy saving designs and water conservation programs required by LEED certification, the project included other unique and sustainable

design elements, construction approaches and systems in order to achieve the “SILVER” level. Most notable are:

- 1) Established Public/Private partnership for the construction of storm water collection/storage facilities serving the building and adjoining public ROW and the new Mt. Washington Drive bridge, without using dry wells or drainage into the Deschutes River.
- 2) Implemented a sophisticated computer controlled Crestron dimming system for all lighting in the building, thus illuminating a typical conference room using 20- 45% less energy.
- 3) Low VOC materials were used in all interior finish materials, carpet flooring, wall fabrics and wall carpet on movable sound wall partitions.
- 4) Implemented the first program in Central Oregon for the recycling of gypsum board.
- 5) High efficiency heating and air conditioning systems controlled via a computerized “event based” building management system.
- 6) Exemplary performance for providing a higher level of open space coupled with the protection of native/riparian vegetation, natural rock outcroppings and the Deschutes River during and after construction.

In addition, the project will be supplied with 100% renewable energy through the Pacific Power Blue Sky “Usage” program. The average monthly environmental impact of this commitment by The Riverhouse Convention Center is to generate over 40,000 lbs of CO2 offset or the equivalent of planting over 1,750 trees.

The Riverhouse Convention Center, a 54,000+ square foot building built by Kirby Nagelhout, opened in December of 2006. The 16,000 square foot ballroom is the second largest hotel/convention center ballroom in Oregon and can accommodate over 1,000 people for dinner. The facility can accommodate conferences with concurrent meetings, meals, exhibit/tradeshows and breakout sessions. The highlight of the facility is not only the size and the state-of-the-art technology environment, but also the spectacular river view deck and outside function areas. The main level has a beautiful lobby area with a large fireplace, waterfall, executive boardroom, business center, as well as a full production kitchen. The lower level offers an additional 14,000 square foot. Exhibit hall. For more information, visit www.riverhouse.com.

###