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PRESS RELEASE

HBACA's AZ Green Builder Program

First Home Builder Earns AZ Green Builder Certification

Phoenix, April 24, 2009: The HBACA is proud to announce that Columbia Communities is AZ Green Builder's first certified home builder. AZ Green Builder (AZGB) was developed by the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA) as a voluntary green standard for production home subdivisions. The five major components of the AZGB program are energy efficiency, water conservation, resource efficiency, improved indoor air quality and home owner education.

"We salute Columbia Communities for being at the forefront of the industry in embracing the program's green building standards and for taking a positive step toward providing homes that many home buyers are looking for in today's market," stated Connie Wilhelm, HBACA President and Executive Director.

Columbia Communities has delivered homes that are 30-40% more energy efficient than the building code requires since 2003. Some of the key features used by Columbia are low-E dual pane windows, advanced heating and cooling units designed to be 50% more energy efficient, compact fluorescent lighting, fresh air delivery system that reduces dust and pollutants, radiant barrier sheathing in the attic to reduce heat gain, 85% recycled GreenFiber insulation, heavy duty 2x6 framing, Tyvek stucco wrap and flexwrap for moisture management, low VOC paint, low-flow water fixtures, xeriscape front yard landscape with drip system, and third-party testing for every home.

"We are honored to be the first home builder in Arizona to sign up for this green-building program and we are proud to be part of this locally based effort that's bringing green building to residential construction in our community," said Jeanine Baber, Director of Sales and Marketing for Columbia.

In addition to the new AZ Green Builder certification, Columbia Communities' Riverstone Estates neighborhood in Peoria is also participating in several other energy saving programs. Riverstone Estates is a green, high-performance neighborhood with pricing starting from the \$230's. There are four beautifully decorated models to see, seven floorplans to choose from, 2 to 8 bedrooms and from 1,798 to 3,809 sq. ft.

For more information about the AZ Green Builder program, please visit www.azgreenbuilder.org.

About the HBACA

The Home Builders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA) is a trade association for the residential construction and development industry that was established in 1951. The Association provides a forum through which these businesses can

work together to remain informed regarding new and proposed policies advanced by the local, state and federal governments which affect the housing industry. The Association acts as a source of timely and reliable information concerning the state of the local building industry and works to eliminate overly restrictive and costly building laws and regulations that drive up the cost of housing. www.hbaca.org

About Columbia Communities

Columbia Communities was founded in 1996 and is a privately held and family owned group of companies based in Scottsdale, Arizona. Columbia Communities is led by a unique group of individual including James Weinberg, Chairman and CEO and Jan Zakowski, COO, both second generation homebuilders and John P. Lutich, President, a third-generation homebuilder. www.ColumbiaCommunities.com

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