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**Supervisor Ken Yeager appointed as new Chair
of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County**

Organization looks to build on prior successes to tackle new challenges

San José – Supervisor Ken Yeager has been appointed as the chair of the Board of Directors of the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County. Supervisor Yeager succeeds Supervisor Don Gage, who led the board for eight years. The organization funds housing programs that range from down payment assistance to financing the construction of supportive housing and affordable rental units.

“I’m excited to work with Supervisor Yeager as the new chair of our board,” said Executive Director Kevin Zwick. “I am confident that Supervisor Yeager will build on the successes Supervisor Gage and the rest of board achieved over the last few years.”

Formed during the height of the dot-com boom, the Housing Trust was created to leverage public and private dollars to provide more housing for working families. Supervisor Yeager takes on his new role in a housing climate that is greatly changed.

“The faltering economy and ongoing foreclosure crisis will produce many challenges for the Housing Trust over the next few years,” said Supervisor Yeager. “The world is vastly different than it was a year or even six months ago. By being nimble and innovative, we can overcome those challenges and find new opportunities as well.”

As chair of the Housing Trust, Supervisor Yeager will continue his long-standing commitment to improving the regional landscape for land use, housing and transportation. As a member of regional and statewide bodies such as the Association of Bay Area Governments, the BART to Silicon Valley Policy Advisory Board, and the California Air Resources Board, Supervisor Yeager understands the need to create affordable housing opportunities in close proximity to jobs.

“Not matter how you look at it, housing remains a crucial issue for our community,” said Supervisor Yeager. “It’s an economic issue. Keeping people close to their work and reducing clogged freeways increases productivity. Those clogged freeways mean more greenhouse gasses being spewed into our air, making it an environmental issue, too. And poor air quality and increased stresses have a detrimental effect on our public health.”

“Housing is a key piece of the puzzle in creating a healthier, more productive community,” Supervisor Yeager continued. “The Housing Trust of Santa Clara County is an organization with proven success in this area. I am proud to be named as its new chair.”

The Housing Trust of Santa Clara County is one of the most effective and innovative housing trusts in the nation. Since its inception in 1999, the Housing Trust has attracted nearly \$30 million in voluntary contributions from government, employers, foundations and private citizens.

The Housing Trust has helped more than two thousand working families and individuals purchase their first home through closing cost and mortgage assistance loans. It has enabled the development of 1500 units of affordable rental housing, and it helped create thousands more opportunities for supportive and special needs housing.