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Monterey City Council Names Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects and Slavik Group To Provide New Designs for Downtown Plazas and Streetscapes

Designs Will Support Increased Commerce, Visitor Access and Outdoor Events

Monterey, CA – May 9, 2011 – The Monterey City Council has approved the re-design of downtown Monterey's plazas and streetscapes to improve access and commerce for visitors and locals alike, and to create more outdoor gatherings and events across the historic seaside town. Following a public bid process, the Council selected Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects (WR&D) and the Slavik Group as the team that will provide these designs while working closely with the community to ensure the best possible outcome for all involved.

WR&D and the Slavik Group approached the City of Monterey in the Fall of 2009 with ideas for a revitalized downtown to help increase tourism, commerce and property ownership. Since that time, the team conducted significant community outreach and research to help move the process forward. The plaza and streetscape design contract was developed by the City with financial assistance from the Monterey County Property Owners Association as the next logical step in a revitalization process that has included the creation of a traffic study to eliminate one-way streets and determine better access patterns, as well as a retail study to identify the types of businesses that will thrive in downtown Monterey.

Under this contract, WR&D and the Slavik Group will facilitate design charrettes and receive input and recommendations from the community, including property owners, residents, business groups, and public officials. The team will also consult with Monterey Traffic staff, Traffic consultants, and Planning staff to integrate revised traffic patterns into the overall designs, and will collaborate closely with downtown property owners to help them obtain the most benefit from the new plazas and streetscapes. Once the designs are finalized, the team and City staff will present the ideas to the Monterey Planning Commission and City Council for final approval.

About WR&D Architects

Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects, LLP is a full-service architectural firm with an extensive portfolio of commercial, agricultural, healthcare, education, public works, residential, construction management and commercial interior design projects developed over more than 45 years. As a leader in green construction and sustainable practices, WR&D creates buildings that are designed to enhance productivity and well-being while making positive impacts on the larger community. For more information, visit www.wrdarch.com.