



## **San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Donna Frye, Green Leaders Share Spotlight at International Earth Day Leadership Event, April 22nd 2009**

San Diego, CA, April 15, 2009 --([PR.com](http://PR.com))-- Contested terrain has long been a staple of the landscape in sustainability policy choice at the city, state and federal levels. [www.SanDiegoEarthWeek.com](http://www.SanDiegoEarthWeek.com) public event organizers are bringing diverse “Green” Leaders together for International Earth Day on April 22nd, as a large gesture towards more regional unity on the issues.

“Climate change is accelerating according to the best science on hand, and the planet is not really interested in our squabbles with one another other. The time has come to join forces and have civil conversations in order to find the way to protect the San Diego we love. Mother Nature is on her own determined time schedule. As a hurricane survivor I can vouch for that.” Said Kathleen Connell, a science policy expert who has worked with NASA and other policy organizations. Connell is a Co-Producer of [www.SanDiegoEarthWeek.com](http://www.SanDiegoEarthWeek.com) events, and experienced Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in 2005 while living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Dawn Parker-Waites, businesswoman, is founder of [sandiegolovesgreen.com](http://sandiegolovesgreen.com) and an Earth Week Co-Producer, and a busy mother of a teen daughter and two young boys. She juggles a hectic family life with her profound commitment to the environment. “We produced [www.sandiegoearthweek.com](http://www.sandiegoearthweek.com) events and the Leadership Forum out of a sense of urgency about the need for bright green consensus creation. We are so appreciative of the outstanding leaders who have stepped up to address the community on Earth Day, that we want to acknowledge their work and look to the future together. I hope this is the beginning of a new era of green collaboration in San Diego, and that all who care about the future of their children and community attends to learn, dialog and network with others.” she said.

Speakers at the America's Finest Green City Leadership Forum include:

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. Among America's Mayors, San Diego's Republican Mayor Jerry Sanders is a leader in creating economic prosperity & environmental sustainability. In April of 2007, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced the formation of a new Cleantech (Clean Technology) Initiative in an effort to promote the expansion, attraction and retention of businesses that develop products and technologies that provide environmentally sustainable solutions. Clean technologies enable a more valuable use of natural resources and reduce ecological impacts to the region. Mayor Sanders also launched an innovative solar program, which is designed to make the conversion to solar energy affordable to homeowners by financing the cost of installation and spreading it out over 20 years of property tax bills.

Council Member Donna Frye, Democrat, represents the District 6 San Diego City Council, and is the Chair of the Council's Natural Resources and Culture Committee as well as the San Diego River Conservancy. The council member exerts considerable local influence on the issue she once rode to prominence as a community activist: protecting the environment. She remains passionate and vigilant about clean water and air and other sustainability issues, and leads a growing “green” grassroots of San Diego on these issues.

Many speakers and senior staff representing elected officials and other organizations are confirmed and



promise for a dynamic afternoon. Offices and organizations making remarks include representatives Ms. Caridad Sanchez District Director, Office of Senator Barbara Boxer; Mr. Ricardo Flores, Community Representative, Office of Congressman Susan Davis; Ms. Deanna Spehn, Policy Director, Office of State Senator Christine Kehoe; Dr. Emily Young, San Diego Foundation; Ms. Lisa Bicker, CEO, CleanTECH San Diego and other surprise guests.

Sponsors for the Leadership Forum include a diverse set of visionary organizations including Waste Management Inc., Cricket Communications, Hornblower Cruises, KPRI 102.1FM and the Host Hotel, The Hotel Solamar.

America's Finest Green City Leadership Forum Details:

Where: Hotel Solamar

Solstice Ballroom

435 6th Ave (At J Street)

San Diego, CA

When: International Earth Day

Wednesday April 22

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

Tickets: \$55. Registration: [www.sandiegoearthweek.com](http://www.sandiegoearthweek.com)

Dr. Mark Hanson of The Heartland Foundation and United Green, a co-host for the event notes: "We are at the crossroads of the most significant crisis of modern times. Two profound, life-changing events - the rapid depletion of fossil fuels and rising sea level from the warming of the earth's atmosphere - are converging to dramatically alter our future." <http://www.heartlandfdn.org/>

[www.sandiegoearthweek.com](http://www.sandiegoearthweek.com) is also presenting two others events for an enlivened Earth Week:

. A Green Jobs and Career Workshop. A timely and affordable event for those looking for information on Green jobs, business and training opportunities in the San Diego Region; \$35 Registration

A capstone celebration of Mother Earth, dubbed the Earth Bash, a floating fun time on San Diego Bay aboard Hornblower's eco-friendly luxury yacht, Inspiration, complete with a stellar line up of live entertainers, dancing, nature appreciation, and much more.

A percent of net proceeds will be donated to Surfrider San Diego, San Diego Coastkeeper, and Stayclassy.org

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