

## For Immediate Release

### AIA Selects Northern Nevada for Community Assistance to Promote Long Term Regional Sustainability

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The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Center for Communities by Design has selected Northern Nevada to receive technical assistance under the Sustainable Design Assessment Team program. The collaborative SDAT brings together architects and other professionals assembled from across the country to provide a roadmap for communities seeking to increase their sustainability – as defined by a community's ability to meet the environmental, economic, and social equity needs of today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

After submitting an application to the 2006 SDAT Review Panel outlining the economic, environmental, and social equity needs facing their area, Northern Nevada, along with the following areas, has been selected to receive the AIA SDAT assistance program: New Orleans, Syracuse, N.Y., Longview, WA, Guemes Island, WA, Lawrence, KS, Northeast, MI, and Hagerstown, MD.

Ric Licata, President of AIA Northern Nevada, in announcing this award, says "that with the recent signing into law of Nevada's Assembly Bill 3, one of only two such bills in the entire U.S., and the rampant development pressures in Northern Nevada, a fresh look at our future directions is necessary . . . before it's too late."

A team of architects, planners, hydrologists, economic development specialists, and other related professionals will be selected based on their credentials and the specific needs of each selected area. The team will work in conjunction with local stakeholders such as the regional and local planning agencies to help shape a Northern Nevadan strategy to increase sustainability. In order to provide the most objective assessment, all team members are from outside the particular

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selected areas. The second step in the process is the preliminary visit where SDAT members will meet with various stakeholder groups in an effort to gauge the needs of the area and the priorities of the people who live and work there.

The AIA SDAT team will be here for its' initial visit later this year and interested parties will be invited to attend and provide feedback. The SDAT community assistance program provides the selected participants with six components:

- Preliminary/scoping visit
- A scheduled three day visit by a multidisciplinary team
- A report highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the area with regards to sustainability, along with the opportunities and obstacles to change
- Consultations after a three day visit (usually electronic)
- A conference call six months after delivery of the assessment report to review progress
- A one day follow-up evaluation visit a year after the SDAT report is delivered

"The feedback from planning officials and Mayors within the areas that have already participated has been extremely positive, as more and more areas are placing a priority on environmental sustainability and community revitalization", said David Downey, Associate AIA, managing director of the AIA Center for Communities by Design. "This forward-looking program is intended to help address challenges that communities face, such as transportation design strategies, air and water quality improvement possibilities, local economic development and how to manage growth associated with shifting and increasing populations."

**About the American Institute of Architects:**

**[WWW.AIA.ORG](http://WWW.AIA.ORG)**

For almost 150 years, members of the American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better design and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real.

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