

# Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

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## **\$20 million green building contest**

*GreenTech Media – Nov 20*

Siebel Systems founder Tom Siebel, who made billions in the '90s software boom, is organizing a \$20 million dollar contest to encourage innovation in HVAC systems and other technologies for relatively affordable, zero-energy homes. The contest will have at least two rules: the homes have to be affordable and located somewhere average Americans would want to live.

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*Many readers want to explore the intersection between green construction and venture capital. Navitas Capital volunteered to provide insights through the following monthly column:*

## **Green Building Update: VENTURE CAPITAL CORNER**



### **Obama's Green Building Agenda**

*By Jim Pettit, Navitas Capital – Dec 1*

President-elect Barack Obama officially takes office on January 20, 2009. As we wait for Inauguration Day, the anticipatory buzz continues to build with respect to his new administration and its ability to stimulate a green economy, create millions of green jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance green and sustainable building and infrastructure.

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## **Modular housing eligible for NAHB green certification**

*NAHB - Nov 25*

The National Associations of Home Builders' (NAHB) "Green" verification service is now available for modular homes, bringing NAHB's green building certification process to the industry that produces a fifth of the nation's housing stock. Modular Green is a new service offered by the NAHB Research Center, which also administers the National Green Building Certification program for traditionally built homes. The verification service launched in February 2008 as part of NAHBGreen.

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## **Green Building Focus**

### **Green Coalition Submits Report to Obama**

*GreenBiz -Nov 26*

A coalition of twenty-nine leading environmental, science and conservation organizations worked together to produce a 391-page "Transition to Green" report recently submitted to President-Elect Obama's transition team. Foremost among the groups' recommendations were calls to aggressively develop renewable energy resources and address climate change. "We need to dig ourselves out of the hole we're in with a green shovel," said National Wildlife Federation President Larry Schweiger, whose group

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participated in producing the report.

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### **Project FROG raises \$8 million**

*Sustainable Business - Nov 18*

San Francisco-based [Project FROG](#), a start-up that makes green modular buildings, announced that it has closed an \$8 million Series B financing led by RockPort Capital Partners. Project FROG has developed smart green building products and systems that are suited to a number of applications, including education, retail and commercial.

### **Hayward CA may adopt green building law**

*Mercury News - Nov 28*

Like other municipalities across the country, Hayward, California is "going green". The city may adopt a green building ordinance that will require all new home construction and significant additions to both residential and commercial properties to achieve a GreenPoint rating based on five categories: energy efficiency, resource conservation, indoor air quality, water conservation and community. City Council members supportive of the ordinance believe it is needed to address the current economic downturn and the ongoing environmental emergency.

### **Napa CA considering green building law**

*North Bay Business Journal - Dec 1*

The Napa City Council is considering the first phase of a green-building ordinance that will begin with mandatory measures for large commercial, institutional and public projects. New nonresidential buildings or additions with more than 30,000 square feet would have to qualify for the "certified" level of the USGBC's LEED rating system.

### **Webcor partners with Navitas in green building fund**

*GreenTech Media - Nov 25*

[Webcor](#), the largest builder in California, will become a limited partner in a green building fund managed by [Navitas Capital](#). The two companies previously signed a strategic agreement under which Navitas agreed to help Webcor identify promising greentech startups. By teaming up with Navitas, Webcor will have access to emerging green building technologies in its construction and will, in turn, give many green-building startups access to a highly influential member of the building community.

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#### **Notable green building projects...**

##### **Pleasanton Corporate Commons achieves LEED-EB silver**

*Hines - Nov 25*

Pleasanton Corporate Commons announced that it has received LEED Silver certification for Existing Buildings. This is the first multi-tenant campus to achieve silver certification in Northern California.

advice or legal opinions on any specific facts or circumstances. This email was sent by:  
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