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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. Treasury Department's Eric Solomon to Keynote Novogradac & Company LLP's
'Solutions and Development Opportunities
in the Gulf Opportunity Zone' Seminar, April 10-11 in New Orleans**

SAN FRANCISCO – Timely and important topics on development opportunities for affordable housing and community development in the Gulf Coast states will bring industry participants to Novogradac & Company LLP's **Solutions and Development Opportunities in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Seminar** to be held in New Orleans, La. April 10-11, 2006, at the Astor Crowne Plaza-French Quarter. Eric Solomon will provide the Keynote Luncheon address. Solomon is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Tax Policy at the Treasury Department. Prior to joining the Treasury Department in October of 1999, Solomon was a partner at Ernst & Young LLP, where he was a member of the Mergers & Acquisitions Group of the National Tax Department in Washington, D.C. He also previously served as Assistant Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service.

The **Solutions and Development Opportunities in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Seminar** will bring together panels of leading community development experts and will explore the

development opportunities for affordable housing and community development in the Gulf states, provided for in the GO Zone Act of 2005. The GO Zone Act authorizes an emergency increase in tax credit and bond authority in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and other Gulf States. These tax credits will be used directly to begin the rebuilding process of the Gulf Coast region.

Seminar topics will include, among others, the benefits of the GO Zone Act 2005 and bringing tax subsidies into play, the GO Zone's provisions in putting low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bonds to work, state housing agencies' responses to the GO Zone Act and Hurricane Katrina; as well as an analysis of tax credit projects with Katrina and GO Zone benefits.

The **Solutions and Development Opportunities in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Seminar** is being co-hosted by Advantage Capital Partners, Boston Capital, PNC Multifamily Capital, MMA Financial, Charter Mac Commercial Solutions, The Richman Group Affordable Housing Corporation, TransCapital, Nixon Peabody LLP, and the National Trust Community Investment Corporation. The event is being co-sponsored by McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, GMAC, NEF Inc. and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

Novogradac & Company LLP is a national certified public accounting and consulting firm headquartered in San Francisco, with offices in Metro Atlanta, Ga., Washington, D.C., and Kansas City, Mo.; as well as offices in Long Beach, Calif., Austin, Texas, Dover, Ohio and Boston, Mass. The firm maintains clients in a broad range of industries with an emphasis in the real estate and service sectors. It provides a full spectrum of audit, tax, valuation, litigation support and general consulting services to publicly and privately held enterprises.

For more information about Novogradac & Company LLP's **Solutions and Development Opportunities in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Seminar** call Jane Bowar Zastrow at 415.356.8034, or email her at jane.zastrow@novoco.com.

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