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April 2, 2007

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Novogradac & Company LLP to Host GO Zone Forum in New Orleans, La., May 15-16, 2007**

**San Francisco, CA** – On December 21, 2005 President Bush signed HR 4440, otherwise known as the Gulf Opportunity Zone (GO Zone) Act, to help alleviate some of the financial burden and to offer incentives to rebuild some of the Gulf Coast communities hardest hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Novogradac & Company LLP will explore the results of that legislation, now a year and a half later, at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **GO Zone Forum** to be held at the Ritz-Carlton New Orleans, May 15 and 16.

The one-and-one-half day forum will delve into the intricacies of the tax credits, including the most recent round of new markets tax credit applications, in which applicants requested \$5.7 billion for projects designed to revive the affected areas and rebuild their economies. The forum, which attracts a large number of industry participants, will feature, among other topics, discussions of investor and developer opportunities and concerns, GO Zone legislation, including new congressional action, and tax credit and bond allocations, as well as an exploration of obstacles developers are facing.

“While development in the GO Zone has encountered the challenges that disasters like these can create, it has also enjoyed some successes. This forum provides an opportune gathering at which industry participants can share and explore innovative strategies that will allow the development and rehabilitation of more affordable and safe housing and other community development projects in those areas affected by the hurricanes,” says Michael J. Novogradac, conference chairman and managing partner in the San Francisco office of Novogradac & Company LLP.

Panelists will provide an overview of available GO Zone programs and share first-person stories regarding low-income housing tax credits (LIHTCs), tax-exempt bonds and new markets tax credits, including the what, when, where and how of their projects. New markets tax credits (NMTCs) projects and how to combine them with historic tax credits (HTCs) to preserve some of the South’s most treasured historic landmarks will also be explored.

A bus tour on Tuesday, May 15, will explore downtown New Orleans and include the Superdome, the Canal Street area and the heavily damaged Ninth Ward. An optional dinner will be held at Dickie Brennan’s Seafood and Oyster Bar on Wednesday, May 16.

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Conference details and the complete agenda can be found at [www.novoco.com/events](http://www.novoco.com/events).

**The GO Zone Forum** is co-hosted by Capmark, Enterprise Community Investment, Sonnenshein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, The Richman Group, TransCapital and US Bank.

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 national clients with 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 GO Zone Forum, contact Jane Bowar Zastrow at 415.356.8034 or [jane.zastrow@novoco.com](mailto:jane.zastrow@novoco.com).

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