



Media Contact: John Kearns  
Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[jkearns@visitpasadena.com](mailto:jkearns@visitpasadena.com)  
626.844.0789

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pasadena Convention Center Expansion Completed and Open for Business**

*The California Police Chiefs Association Annual Conference is First Group to Use the \$150 Million Expanded Center*

**Pasadena, Calif., (March 16, 2009)** – The \$150 million Pasadena Convention Center expansion project is now complete. The expanded center, which includes 55,000 square feet of new exhibit space and a 25,000 square foot ballroom, opened on March 1, six weeks ahead of schedule to accommodate the first group The California Police Chiefs Association Annual Conference.

“We are thrilled that construction is now complete and the Center is open for business” said Michael Ross, CEO of the Pasadena Center Operating Company (PCOC). “We know that everyone, from clients to partners, as well as PCOC employees have been waiting for this day to arrive. The City of Pasadena now has a new, state-of-the-art facility that doubles the size of the previous Center, which will attract meeting planners looking for added capacity and features.”

“We are honored that our conference was the first to use the new Pasadena Convention Center,” said Bernard K. Melekian, City of Pasadena police chief and president of the California Police Chiefs Association. “The PCOC staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the Center was ready for the conference and they were helpful in every way. The new Center was an integral part of the conference’s astounding success. It is a wonderful addition to Pasadena and I applaud the PCOC on this beautiful new building.”

The expanded facility also has many environmentally friendly features that include water conserving restrooms, low water landscaping with storm water run-off used for irrigation, high efficiency lighting and an automated energy control system. There is also bike storage areas and shower/changing rooms for employees, preferred parking for car pools and incentives for the use of public transit to encourage less automobile traffic. The expanded facility is striving for a minimum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

-more-

### *Pasadena Convention Center Expansion Completed/2-2-2*

The expanded Center now completes the Pasadena Convention Center complex that includes the historic Pasadena Civic Auditorium and the refurbished Conference Building. The official grand opening of the expanded Convention Center is scheduled April 3-5. In addition, visitors can see the new Center as the 33rd Annual Home Show & Real Estate Expo will be free to the public and will include entertainment and refreshments.

The Pasadena Convention Center is located nine miles north of downtown Los Angeles and is within walking distance of four major hotels and Old Pasadena, a trendy 22-block European-style shopping/entertainment district. Adding to its convenience, Pasadena is just 16 miles from Bob Hope/Burbank Airport and 27 miles from Los Angeles International Airport.

The Pasadena Center Operating Company is a nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena Civic Auditorium and Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau. For more information, contact the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 307-7977 or go to [VisitPasadena.com](http://VisitPasadena.com).

###