



Thursday, June 26, 2008
Contact: Mike Blum or Jim Shivers
(805) 544-0760 or (805) 458-2743

10180 Los Osos Valley Road , San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
(805) 544-0760 www.cbdslo.org

Rabbi Norman T. Mendel
D. Litt et Phil, D.D.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONGREGATION BETH DAVID FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN THE WORLD
TO RECEIVE LEED CERTIFICATION**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Congregation Beth David of San Luis Obispo, California announced that it has been awarded LEED® Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It is the first synagogue in the world and the first building in San Luis Obispo County to receive LEED Certification. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is USGBC's rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient and high performing buildings.

"Congregation Beth David is to be congratulated for achieving LEED® Certification," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "To be the first synagogue in the world to achieve this certification is a significant milestone for Congregation Beth David, the entire Central Coast of California and the worldwide Jewish community. This certification shows that Congregations Beth David cares about the environment and the well being of all who use the environmentally-friendly building."

Congregation Beth David was designed by the Sustainability Group of Santa Margarita, California and built by S.J. Deferville Construction. The design included the most efficient use of energy, lighting, water, choice of building materials, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design. LEED was established to encourage design and construction of buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense.

Congregation Beth David was built on a pristine 92-acre site and makes use of natural ventilation, solar heating, straw bale construction and many other innovative sustainable building features. Congregation Beth David was founded in 1959 and is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. The groundbreaking for this innovative environmentally state-of-the-art project was held in June of 2005. The building was completed and dedicated in 2007.

There will be a special unveiling of the LEED Certification plaque at Congregation Beth David on Sunday, July 20 at 2 pm at 10180 Los Osos Valley Road in San Luis Obispo. This event is open to the public.