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FORT BEND COUNTY RANKS 6TH IN NATION FOR JOB GROWTH ACCORDING TO CNN/MONEY MAGAZINE

August 13, 2009 (Fort Bend County, TX) – Fort Bend County, Texas ranks sixth on a national list of counties who experienced the most job growth over the past eight years, according to *CNN/Money Magazine*. The ranking was part of the magazine’s annual “America’s Best Places to Live” special feature.

“Despite a national economic downturn, Fort Bend County continues to offer a strong environment for business and provides a high quality of life for its residents,” said Jeff Wiley, president of the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council. “Decision makers choose to move their companies to Fort Bend County because of our low tax burden, low crime rate and overall low cost of doing business. Additionally, Texas is one of only seven states in the nation without a state income tax.”

Among other corporate relocations, Minute Maid most recently relocated its corporate headquarters to Sugar Land bringing 275 jobs to Fort Bend County. The county’s job growth is forecasted to continue, as Fort Bend County will soon be home to the Kansas City Southern/CenterPoint Properties’ 880-acre integrated intermodal facility and logistics park, which is expected to create more than 750 jobs for the region. The new project will be located just west of Rosenberg.

“We have a proven track record of success in business recruitment because of the quality of development that has been established in Fort Bend County and our continued aggressive recruitment efforts create a very attractive business climate for new investment and job creation,” Wiley added.

Fort Bend County is located in the Houston metropolitan area of southeast Texas. For more information about Fort Bend County, including a complete list of its recognitions, visit www.fortbendcounty.com.

About Fort Bend County

Fort Bend County is located in the Houston metropolitan area of southeast Texas. Its population is among the fastest growing in the United States and has been recognized among the most educated and diverse counties in the nation. According to the 2008 U.S. Census, Fort Bend County has more than 530,000 residents and is projected to grow to one million by 2017. Fort Bend's vibrant economy has also received national recognition. Fort Bend County is among the top 10 counties in the nation in terms of economic strength, according to Woods & Poole Economics, 2008. For more information about Fort Bend County including a complete list of recognitions, visit us at www.fortbendcounty.com or on Twitter and Facebook.