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Contact: Malei Weir
(805) 239-0020
mw@mooncatcher.com

MAJOR EXPANSION BEGINS FOR HISTORIC MONTEREY HOTEL

Monterey, CA—On November 3, 2006, Moonstone Hotel Properties will break ground on an \$8 million expansion project on The Monterey Hotel, a historic property built in 1904 in the heart of downtown Monterey.

The renovation adds 24 new guest rooms (eight per floor; all with private fireplaces) to the current 45 rooms, as well as an additional 454 square feet of meeting space, which will seat approximately 40 people. This project is designed as a viable move to add needed amenities while preserving the hotel's early 20th century detail and charm.

Other changes include extra underground valet parking; a new elevator system; and a 1,500-square-foot fitness facility, including a spa, treatment rooms and an exercise room. The interior design will remain consistent with the hotel's existing Victorian theme, while adding an indoor garden conservatory on the lower level near the spa entrance.

When expansion is complete in the spring of 2008, the hotel's main entrance will have been moved from busy Alvarado Street to the more spacious Calle Principal. The project also includes space for three new retail shops (650 square feet, 405 square feet, 976 square feet) adjoining the hotel along Alvarado Street, and a new pedestrian walkway linking Alvarado Street to nearby Calle Principal.

As a "mixed use" project, an adjacent part of the building will include 18 low-to-moderate income housing units composed of studios as well as one and two bedroom apartments, which will share a courtyard. The City of Monterey is the lender on the apartment portion of the building project.

Located just a few blocks from Fisherman's Wharf, The Monterey Hotel also boasts easy access to the Monterey coastal walking trail, fine dining, the Old Custom House, historic adobes and the Maritime Museum of Monterey. It offers a front-row seat to downtown Monterey events such as farmer's market and an array of music and arts festivals.

Originally designed by famed architect William Weeks and built at a cost of \$100,000, the Monterey Hotel was considered modern for its day because it had both gas heating and electric lighting. Rivalled only by the nearby Old Del Monte Hotel, which is today the Naval Postgraduate School, the Monterey Hotel was known for its hand-carved redwood ceilings, an ornate Hammond gilt-edged cage elevator and elaborate wainscoting—all of which remain prominent features today. A 1904 newspaper called it "the most unique and elegantly furnished European hotel west of Chicago." In 1924, luxury at this level went for a whopping \$2.50 a night—that is, if you insisted on a private bathroom.

Moonstone Hotel Properties purchased The Monterey Hotel and an adjoining parcel of land in 1999. Expansion plans have been in the works for years, pending city approval. "We are very excited to see this long awaited project get underway," said Lynda Gill, director of operations for Moonstone Hotel Properties.

moon • stone n. 1. A gem valued for its pearly translucence. 2. A rugged, picturesque beach adjacent to the quaint coastal village of Cambria, California. 3. A Cambria-based collection of boutique hotel properties set amid extraordinary destinations. Moonstone Hotel Properties was established in 1986 by Dirk Winter. Today, Moonstone Hotel Properties encompasses 10 distinctive inns and hotels in Cambria, Carmel, Monterey, Yosemite and Cottage Grove, Oregon. Each of these spectacular properties reflects a commitment to quality and attention to detail, with the goal of creating a warm, comforting and memorable experience for the guest. Additionally, the Moonstone-owned Cambria Nursery and Florist captures Mr. Winter's passion for fine gardening, which is also evident in the colorful landscaping at each of the Moonstone Hotel Properties.

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