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News Release

September 1st, 2016

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Young Cyclists Roll through Santa Barbara to Assist with Affordable Housing Efforts

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County, Grid Alternatives and the Community Environmental Council will greet 31 Bike & Build riders as they end cross-country trek in Santa Barbara.

Santa Barbara, California, September 1st, 2016 – Today, thirty young adults with Bike & Build Inc., a national non-profit committed to affordable housing, are bicycling into Santa Barbara on their journey across the United States. The cyclists, as part of the Maine to Santa Barbara route, are traveling from Portland, ME to Santa Barbara, CA to raise money and awareness for affordable housing causes.

“We are deeply proud that Bike & Build has 300 riders this year who are so committed to the affordable housing cause that they are willing to raise much-needed funds and spend two months of their summer biking across this amazing country,” said Bike & Build’s Senior Director of Operations and Development, Justin Villere. “Bike & Build provides the opportunity; it is the riders who make the impact on housing issues through our cycling trips.”

The group has been traveling for more than 10 weeks and has helped to build affordable housing in 13 locations, including Amarillo, TX, Flagstaff, AZ, Payson, AZ, Sedona, AZ, Williams, AZ, and Palmdale, CA. In order to participate in the trip, each rider raised at least \$4,500 to help fund the trip costs and affordable housing efforts nationwide.

Bike & Build offers eight cross-country and two regional biking trips each summer. The 18 to 26 year old riders see and experience first-hand the affordable housing need in this country. They stop in towns along their route and participate in construction efforts at affordable housing sites that are in progress. The riders also meet with local officials and community members to discuss affordable housing issues.

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County, Grid Alternatives and the Community Environmental Council will greet the cyclists with a reception and lunch at Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara to mark the end of their ride.

About Bike & Build

Based in Philadelphia, Bike & Build is a non-profit organization that encourages young adults to address the country's affordable housing crisis through organized bicycle trips. Trip participants support the affordable housing cause by fundraising and building efforts. Since its founding in 2003, Bike & Build has motivated over 3,000 young adult volunteers and contributed over \$5.8 million and 200,000 volunteer hours to housing groups such as Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together to fund projects in the United States. For more information, visit www.bikeandbuild.org or call (267) 331-8488.

About Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County

Habitat for Humanity of SSBC (www.sbhabitat.org) is an independent, locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing. We have built 19 new homes in Southern Santa Barbara, repaired over 34 homes through the A Brush with Kindness home repair program, and are actively involved in advocating for safe, decent, and affordable housing for all people. Volunteers provide most of the labor, with individuals, churches and corporate donors providing the money and materials to build Habitat houses.

About Grid Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a nonprofit organization that makes renewable energy technology and training accessible to underserved communities. We bring together community partners, volunteers and job trainees to implement solar power and energy efficiency for low-income families, providing energy cost savings, valuable hands-on experience, and a source of clean, local energy that benefits us all.

About the Community Environmental Council

CEC pioneers real life solutions in areas with the biggest impact on climate change – most notably energy, transportation and food systems. In addition to public education and advocacy, CEC provides direct support to the community on practical solutions such as driving less, choosing high-efficiency electric vehicles, adding solar to homes, ditching single-use plastic, and making food choices that support the environment.