



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2008

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**Redwood Credit Union Branch Named Small Business of the Year
*Novato Branch Recognized by City and Chamber for Community Efforts and More***

Santa Rosa, California – Redwood Credit Union’s (RCU’s) Novato branch was recently named Small Business of the Year by the Novato Chamber of Commerce. RCU was selected based on their contributions to the community, involvement with the local Chamber, leadership in several local organizations, and ability to attract and retain employees. The award was announced at the Novato Chamber luncheon in January, and was presented to Redwood Credit Union at Novato’s “Paint the Town Red” event – an annual birthday celebration honoring the “spirit of Novato.”

“We are truly honored and delighted to be recognized as Small Business of the Year, and on behalf of our 140,000 Members, it is our pleasure to help support local nonprofits and community events, while delivering affordable financial services Novato residents and small businesses,” said Anne Benjamin, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of RCU.

Redwood Credit Union has been serving the Novato community from their Grant Avenue branch location since 1997. They sponsor and participate annually in many local events, including Novato’s Women in Business program, the Art & Wine Festival, the Novato Youth Gala, the Marin Human Race, United Way’s “Week of Caring” and Safe School Grad Night. The Credit Union regularly offers free financial education seminars to Members and the community in their Novato branch. They are also active in the Novato Chamber, with RCU Senior Loan Officer Patrick Hernandez serving as a Chamber Ambassador, and the branch recently hosted a Chamber mixer at their location.

In addition to receiving the Small Business of the Year award, Redwood Credit Union was presented with the Key to the City of Novato. Representing RCU to accept the award at the “Paint the Town Red” celebration were Carol Parish, Branch Manager; Patrick Hernandez, Senior Loan Officer; Cathy Lavaroni-Hall, Business Development Officer; Efren Carrillo, Education Manager; Martina Valentine, Assistant Vice President of Mortgage Lending; and Michael Gradl, Senior Vice President of Investment Services.

Redwood Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit financial cooperative serving the North Bay since 1950. The Credit Union is 56th largest nationwide and the largest North Bay, CA credit union. Anyone living or working in eight North Bay counties can join and enjoy RCU’s highly competitive checking, deposit and loan products, a wide array of financial and online services, 14 North Bay branch locations, expanded branch and telephone center service hours and fee-free access to over 25,000 nationwide network ATMs. For more information about RCU, please call (800) 479-7928 or visit redwoodcu.org.

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