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**RENAISSANCE ESMERALDA RECEIVES 2008 WRAP AWARD FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**One of Only Five Hotels Statewide to Receive this Award**

**INDIAN WELLS, CA** (December 17, 2008) – The Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa in Indian Wells has received a 2008 Waste Reduction Award for its outstanding “green” operations from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). Nearly 200 California businesses received recognition this year through the Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP); however, the Renaissance Esmeralda is one of only five hotels statewide to earn this special honor.

“These businesses are aggressively tackling waste reduction through innovative business practices,” stated CIWMB Chair Margo Reid Brown. “Having exceeded our 50 percent waste diversion mandate, California is looking for resourceful approaches to divert the remaining materials going to landfills. Businesses like these, who create opportunities for waste diversion, will be at the forefront of a more sustainable California.”

The resort’s recycling coordinator Ericka Novall and her staff worked closely with City of Indian Wells Recycling Coordinator Kenn Stevens to take the lead in recycling and reuse programs at the resort. “Ericka and her team are a great example of how a concerted effort can produce such positive results,” said Stevens. “The Renaissance Esmeralda is raising the standard and serves as a great example for other valley businesses.”

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Some of the Renaissance Esmeralda's recent conservation achievements included diverting approximately 150 tons of food waste from the resort's regular waste stream to a local green waste facility for composting, and donating about 200 leftover turkeys from Thanksgiving and Christmas to a local food bank. The resort also replaced original lighting with energy-efficient equipment, uses "greener" cleaning products, and recycles paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, and about 300 pounds of ink cartridges annually.

The City of Indian Wells has asked Novall to serve as a mentor for other Indian Wells resort and country club properties that wish to convert to more sustainable environmental practices.

"The City of Indian Wells congratulates Ericka, her team, and everyone at the Renaissance Esmeralda for this exceptional achievement and for taking a proactive approach to a cleaner and less wasteful environment," said City Manager Greg Johnson. "These types of 'best practices' that our resort partners use reflect the city's commitment to a top-caliber quality of life."

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