



CHRISS W. STREET
ORANGE COUNTY TREASURER

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PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION AND GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS AWARDED TO OC TREASURER'S OFFICE

“County Model Program” developed by Treasurer Chriss W. Street’s team

(Santa Ana, CA) – The National of Association Counties (NACo) has announced that the Orange County Treasurer’s Office has been awarded a 2008 National Achievement Award for its efforts to modernize and streamline county government services. Created as part of NACo’s *New County, USA* campaign, the Achievement Awards Program gives national recognition to inventive government solutions and county accomplishments. The Treasurer’s Office is the only department in Orange County to receive this special commendation.

Founded in 1935, the National Association of Counties’ membership represents more than 2,000 counties, and over 80% of the nation’s population. The NACo annual Achievement Awards saluting innovative County Model Programs were first bestowed in 1970.

The “County Model Program” initiated by the Treasurer’s Office found new uses for its state-of-the-art remittance processing equipment which handles the \$5 billion dollars of taxes received annually. The equipment processes over one million tax bills over a three week period biannually but had excess capacity during much of the year. Chriss Street, Orange County Treasurer, partnered with other Departments around the County to leverage the underutilized capacity and assist them in their monthly billing and collecting for County Services.

Since taking office in December of 2006, Treasurer Chriss Street has drastically improved the efficiency and effectiveness of County services. Under Street’s leadership telephone wait times have been reduced 85%, delinquent tax collections have increased by over 50% and un-reimbursed operating expenses have decreased by \$4.1 million.

“Government doesn’t need to be rigid and expensive,” said Street. “I am excited my team of dedicated professionals is receiving the type of prestigious national recognition they deserve. We enjoy the challenge of finding ways to enhance services to our taxpayer clients, and continue to look for new opportunities to cut the cost of government.

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