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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Haggerty, President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors (510) 272-6691  
Keith Carson, Chair, Budget Work Group & Member, Finance Advisory Committee (510) 272-6695

**ALAMEDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SUSAN S. MURANISHI NAMED “TRAILBLAZER”  
IN NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM HONORING WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE**

Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi has been named a Trailblazer in Public Finance by the Northeast Women in Public Finance and the Bond Buyer, the country’s leading news resource covering the municipal finance industry.

Muranishi, who was selected from a pool of more than 60 public sector nominees from around the country, will be honored at the Bond Buyer’s annual awards dinner on December 1 in New York City.

The honor comes as Alameda County, under Muranishi’s leadership, has strengthened its financial position, launched bold initiatives to pay down long-term debt and leveraged its good standing to maximize limited taxpayer resources.

“I am excited, though not the least bit surprised, to hear that Susan is being honored in this way,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “Through thick and thin, she is always there to make sure Alameda County remains in strong financial position and is able to provide top-notch services to residents who need our support.”

In naming her for the “trailblazer” award, judges noted not only Muranishi’s strong leadership in the area of public finance, but her lengthy track record as a mentor to women in the field. Her many community activities to support girls and women professionals were cited late last year when Muranishi – Alameda County’s chief executive since 1995 - was named by the County Administrative Officers Association of California to receive its first-ever Distinguished Service Award. “I am honored and humbled to be recognized in this way among so many outstanding peers in the public finance realm across the county,” Muranishi said.

The “Trailblazer” award comes amid a string of successes in Alameda County’s quest to bolster its finances, upgrade facilities and infrastructure and reduce taxpayer costs. Earlier this month, Fitch Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service both upgraded Alameda County’s Issuer Ratings to “AAA” and “Aaa” respectively, the highest municipal bond ratings possible. In announcing its ratings upgrade, Moody’s cited the strong leadership team led by Muranishi as being instrumental in allowing Alameda County to routinely balance its budget without major staffing and program reductions, while significantly reducing its unfunded pension liability and building its reserves to cushion local programs from the blow of a future economic downturn.

The County’s financial strength has also allowed it to refinance major capital costs to lower the strain on limited public resources. For instance, the County is currently completing a fixed-rate refunding of almost \$100 million in outstanding bond debt associated with the construction of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) in San Leandro. The refunding will allow Alameda County to take advantage of historically low interest rates and save an estimated \$18.7 million in annual debt service costs over the next two decades.

“Susan’s expertise in public finance has been critical in guiding Alameda County through challenging times,” said Supervisor Keith Carson. “Her leadership has allowed us to maintain local services that operate effectively, while enabling the County to expand innovative programs to protect the environment and serve our residents.”