



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: March 26, 2008

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### **TRI CITIES RESEARCH DISTRICT (TCRD), a State designated Innovation Partnership Zone receives \$275,000 from the State of Washington.**

As part of Governor Gregoire's *Next Washington* plan, she has proposed Innovation Partnership Zones (IPZ) to keep Washington competitive in the global market place. In October 2007, the Tri-Cities Research District was designated an IPZ; however, it was not funded. The legislation only allowed five zones to be funded. During the 2008 session a request to clarify legislative language was made to reauthorize dollars that were left unspent (\$275,000).

"While this is not full funding of the communities application that was submitted for designation it is a start. This validates the desire of the State to support the community in this endeavor. The dollars will be focused on updating signage, supporting sustainable development projects that benefit the district and support of infrastructure along First Street between George Washington Way and Stevens which is in need of major repair and improvements", stated Diahann Howard, Executive Director of the TCRD

The TCRD is a 1,600-acre area located in North Richland that is home to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Washington State University Tri-Cities (WSU-TC), the Port of Benton, Hanford contractors, other federal and state agencies and approximately 80 businesses. More than 7,000 workers are employed in the area which contains approximately \$3.4 million square feet of office, laboratory and light manufacturing space.

The TCRD is a 501 (c) (6) corporation managed by a Board of Directors of up to 15-members. The board includes representation from the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council, Columbia Basin College, City of Kennewick, City of Richland,

Port of Benton, PNNL, Solaris Group, LLC and WSU-TC, as well as representatives of area landowners and building owners.

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TCRD web site: <http://www.scitechpark.org/>

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