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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City of Sacramento employee chosen to travel to Beijing, China as a Paralympic Academy Community Leader at 2008 Paralympic Games**

**Sacramento, California, August 22, 2008**—The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) recently announced that Annie Desalernos, program supervisor of the Department of Parks and Recreation's Access Leisure program, has been selected as a Paralympic Community Leader for the **2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China**. Annie is one of only fourteen people nationally to be honored with this selection.

As a Paralympic Community Leader, Annie will have the opportunity to represent the City of Sacramento and Access Leisure at an event that brings together people from all corners of the world. During her time in Beijing, Annie will be responsible for 13 future hopeful Paralympians who are between the ages of 12 and 18. Together with other Paralympic Community Leaders, she will ensure that all youth Paralympians have a memorable experience at the Paralympic Games, which will take place from September 6<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Annie's selection by the USOC stems from her years of continued commitment to individuals with disabilities. In a career spanning 22 years, Annie has worked to secure meaningful opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Access Leisure program provides a comprehensive collection of sports, camping, outdoor education, and social programs specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. In the 12 years Annie has been with Access Leisure, the program has received many accolades and awards, including the 2006 Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Award.

Media-related inquires can be forwarded to Hindolo Brima, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Parks and Recreation, at (916) 808-5972.

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