

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Komar, Ellipsis Consulting
(408) 429-0664
brenda@ellipsis1.com
Tami Hucce Norgrove, VP, Bear Republic Brewing Company
(707) 431-7258
Tami@bearrepublic.com

NORTH BAY SMALL BREWERY WINS BIG

November 16, 2006, 2006 - Healdsburg, CA - Healdsburg-based Bear Republic Brewing Company has returned from the 25th Annual Great American Beer Festival with the national title of Small Brewing Company and Small Brewing Company Brewer of the Year.

Held in Denver, CO, the three-day festival attracted more than 41,000 attendees, and beer from throughout the nation was judged in 69 style categories. In addition to the best small brewery distinction, Bear Republic came away with two silver medals and two bronzes for their specialty brews. Richard R. Norgrove, CEO of Bear Republic, is thrilled with the accolades. "We are a family-owned business and together we've worked hard to craft beers that reflect our region and our passion for brewing. We are very excited about these awards and share the honors with all our amazing employees, as well as our wonderful distributors and customers."

Bear Republic, which operates as a restaurant/brew pub in downtown Healdsburg, is building a second facility in Cloverdale, CA. Upon completion, the 13,000 square foot facility will function as a brewery and bottling plant, and will also house a tasting room. Financed in part through a mortgage from Rich Grant of First Community Bank as well as an SBA loan from Bay Area Development Company, the Cloverdale facility will be twice the size of Bear Republic's Healdsburg location to accommodate the company's growth. Jim Baird, Bay Area Development's CEO, states, "We are extremely happy for everyone at Bear Republic and their well-deserved award. They are a true small business success story, and we are privileged to have the opportunity to work with them."

For more information about Bear Republic Brewing Company, please visit www.bearrepublic.com

###