

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Komar, Ellipsis Consulting  
[brenda@ellipsis1.com](mailto:brenda@ellipsis1.com)  
(408) 979-1999

## SMALL BUSINESS HONORED FOR BIG CONTRIBUTIONS IN NAPA

May 2, 2006 San Jose, CA - Caring for small animals is big business for Napa-based Lixit Corporation, and the company's president, Linda Parks, has been named the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration's (SBA) San Francisco District.

An employee-owned company, Lixit is the world's largest manufacturer of small animal watering devices and also manufactures small animal feeding devices and animal care products. And while the company has shown significant growth each year, the fact that it is the largest employer of disabled workers in Napa County is what caught the SBA's attention. "About 30% of our workforce is disabled and we also outsource a lot of our work to local workshops for the disabled," states Parks.

The SBA evaluates award candidates based on criteria including sales growth, growth by number of employees and years in business, but also looks closely at contributions to the community. Lixit creates more than 50 local jobs, which contributes to the region's growth and vitality. "We've always tried to be a socially responsible company," Parks said, "and I'm really proud to be recognized for it by the SBA."

Lixit was nominated for the award by Bay Area Development Company, an SBA lending company based in Walnut Creek. Jim Baird, Bay Area Development's CEO, states, "We've had the pleasure of working with Linda for ten years now and are thrilled that she has received this honor. She is an extremely successful business owner but she also has a true heart for the Napa community, and that is what really sets her apart."

Nationally, SBA holds Small Business Week to salute the contributions of entrepreneurs like Linda Parks to the American economy. The SBA's San Francisco District Office will celebrate the week May 15-20, and a private reception will be held for Lixit at its headquarters in Napa on May 11.

###