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For Immediate Release
July 7, 2006

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CITY FINALIZES PURCHASE OF SAFECO CAMPUS

LAKE OSWEGO –The City of Lake Oswego’s negotiated \$20 million purchase of the Safeco campus off of Kruse Way was completed this morning with the closing of escrow. The 14-acre property, including the 86,000 square foot office building, is now in public ownership and under consideration for possible use as a community center.

"One step at a time," said Mayor Judie Hammerstad. "We now own a viable location and are proceeding with the design process so residents can have the opportunity to decide for themselves about a community center for Lake Oswego."

Soon after the property was offered for sale last year, City Councilors announced that they would pursue acquisition of the site. A purchase agreement was reached in April that allowed the City to conduct inspections and environmental analyses before completing the transaction. After due diligence, no significant defects or environmental concerns were discovered. As a term of the sale, Safeco may continue to use the building through November.

A citizen steering committee is guiding the design process to determine what uses might be included in the proposed facility. Possible uses in a multigenerational community center could include recreation facilities, aquatics, teen and senior centers, meeting areas, and a library. The steering committee will make a recommendation to City Council on a final preferred program and concept plan by March 2007.

This week, the City launched a new website that provides information and details about the project at www.lakeoswegocommunitycenter.org. Details are also available by calling Brant Williams, Director of Community Center Development, at 503-635-6138.