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**The Nimitz Group Selects Award-Winning Developer Southern Land Company to Help Transform Mare Island into a World-Class Destination**

**Southern Land Company brings a proven track record of developing mixed use planned communities that intermingle green space, residential neighborhoods and businesses**

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**VALLEJO, Calif.** – The Nimitz Group announced today that it has selected Southern Land Company to assist with the long-term planning, development and management of the Mare Island community in Vallejo, California. Southern Land Company adds over 30 years of experience in development, design, construction and property management. Southern Land Company’s experience is vital for this next phase in the island’s evolution to ensure that Mare Island becomes an economic engine and world class destination for the City of Vallejo, Solano County and the Bay Area.

The Nimitz Group issued the following statement: “We are excited to work with Southern Land Company to make our vision for Mare Island a reality. They have one of the best reputations in the development industry for creating unique, walkable communities that promote the well-being of their residents and the larger area. We believe that with Southern Land Company we will be able to establish Mare Island as a sustainable, self-sufficient community that includes current and future residents, long-term employers, vibrant natural open space and exciting entertainment options.”

In November 2019, The Nimitz Group – a joint venture between Nashville investor Gaylon Lawrence, Jr., Depiction Wines-owner Sebastian Lane, and local winemaker and Savage & Cooke Distillery-owner Dave Phinney – completed the acquisition of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard and currently owns approximately 800 acres of land on the island.

The City of Vallejo has entered into a public-private partnership with The Nimitz Group for future redevelopment plans on the island. The developer had previously enlisted architect HOK for the master-planning process and HOK will now work in concert with Southern Land Company on the long-term planning and design.

“Redevelopment of such a large area is complex and the City is thrilled to see The Nimitz Group partnering with an award-winning developer,” said Vallejo Mayor, Bob Sampayan. “It shows they are committed to doing what’s right for Mare Island and we look forward to working with Southern Land Company to realize the island’s full potential.”

Since its founding in 1986, Southern Land Company has delivered distinctive developments where people want to live, work and play, and that holistically serve the greater region to make a lasting positive impact. Southern Land Company has received the “50 Best Master Planned Communities in the US” for its Westhaven community and an “Excellence in Development Award” from the Urban Land Institute of Nashville.

Over the next few months, Southern Land Company will work closely with the City of Vallejo and The Nimitz Group to conduct due diligence and research to refine development plans, will recruit and add to the project team, and will begin long-term planning to support the future vision for Mare Island.

“This is an exciting time for Vallejo as The Nimitz Group enters Phase 2 of their development plan for Mare Island,” said Vallejo City Manager, Greg Nyhoff. “This is the natural evolution of megaprojects such as these and speaks to the continuity and foresight of this phased approach. Bringing in Southern Land Company’s experience and resources will help to build a resilient and equitable future for the community.”

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we are excited to work with the City of Vallejo and the community to implement the long-term vision for Mare Island,” noted Southern Land Company Founder Tim Downey. “As we begin this process, we look forward to sitting down with the businesses, residents and community to get their thoughts on what they see in Mare Island’s future.”

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**The Nimitz Group:** The Nimitz Group is a joint venture between visionary and committed investors Gaylon Lawrence, Jr., Sebastian Lane and Dave Phinney who seek to transform Mare Island into a world-class destination with high-quality housing, transportation, protected open space, employment and entertainment options. The Nimitz Group owns approximately 800 acres on Mare Island allowing for transformative investments that will address the needs of the island’s residents and the larger Vallejo and surrounding communities. [www.nimitzgroup.com](http://www.nimitzgroup.com)

**Southern Land Company:** Southern Land Company is a national real estate developer headquartered in Nashville, TN, with regional offices in New York City and Denver, CO. The 36-year old company is led by CEO and Founder, Tim Downey. The company upholds stringent standards for beauty and quality in their single-family, multifamily, mixed-use, and hospitality developments. The fully integrated company combines a comprehensive set of services spanning the entire development cycle, including planning, design, construction, and marketing. The holistic business model enhances results by creating unique projects with long-term viability on which investors, residents, and partners can rely. They currently have an active 18-project pipeline valued at over \$2 billion. [www.southernland.com](http://www.southernland.com).

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## **Southern Land Company Bios**

High resolution versions of these photos can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uz6zps4c85vv75n/AABpld3dfAqpjXBPrTqbqunka?dl=0>



### **Tim Downey, Founder and Chief Executive Officer**

Tim Downey is the founder and CEO of Southern Land Company. He serves as the visionary and driving force behind the concepts and designs that distinguish Southern Land Company's communities.

Tim's entrepreneurship began in college when he created a property maintenance business. This experience inspired Tim's three-decade career in developing neighborhoods and vibrant commercial districts that adhere to traditional design principles and generate community interaction. Modeled after Walt Disney Imagineering's desire to inspire creativity, innovation and interaction in the company and across projects, Tim's vertically integrated business model enables direct communication between architecture, horticulture, construction and planning professionals. The result has been a growing portfolio of communities that are redefining their markets.



**Brian Sewell, President and Chief Operating Officer**

Brian joined Southern Land Company in 2002, and was named President in 2008. In this capacity, Brian oversees all activity related to the company's residential, multifamily, commercial and office portfolios. Brian is also responsible for the operating departments, including commercial construction, property management, infrastructure, horticulture, home building and sales. From 2002 until 2008, Brian was responsible for Southern Land Company's development activity in Tennessee and Texas.

Prior to joining Southern Land Company, Brian spent almost 10 years as Vice President and General Manager of Terrabrook in Tampa, Florida, where he oversaw development of a 2,000-acre master plan community with a high-end golf course, 3,000 homes and 150 acres of mixed-use development.

Brian received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Baylor University, majoring in Finance and Real Estate. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Auburn University with a concentration in Operations Management.