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### WERTZ & COMPANY, LLP Announces its Merger with Fox & Cova of Irvine

Russ Wertz, Managing Partner of Wertz & Company LLP, one of Orange County's largest local CPA firms, announced today the Company's merger with Fox & Cova of Irvine. The merger became effective January 1, 2005.

"I have known and have worked with Russ Wertz for over sixteen years" stated Mr. Cova. "Similar to my practice, Wertz & Company is a local firm, one of the finest in Southern California. They combine a breadth of services and a depth of resources with the professional attention and sensibilities of a local practice. These and other factors lead me to choose W&C as the right fit for my clients."

Fox & Cova is an Irvine based tax practice that has serviced individuals and business owners since 1971. Harvey Cova, the principle partner of the firm, has been an enrolled agent since 1978. He graduated from Woodbury University in Burbank, CA , with a degree in accounting and has served on the Board of Trustees of that University since 1990. Mr. Cova has relocated his office to Wertz & Company office building in Irvine to ensure the smooth transition of his client base.

"This merger is only one component of our overall growth strategy," said Wertz. "We remain committed to providing exceptional service in our core areas of business, while expanding our service offerings in anticipation of the future needs of our entrepreneurial clients." Wertz further added, "We will remain open to the possibility of future mergers. There are many firms that need the resources and stability that we make available."

Wertz & Company, headquartered in Irvine, is a full service, client centered, CPA firm organized along the service lines that help build, maintain, and grow its client's enterprises. The Company offers depth and breadth of resources in the areas of attest, tax, consulting and financial advisory services to individuals and privately-held entrepreneurial companies throughout Southern California.

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