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MEDIA RELEASE

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Sutro Tower Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 4, 2013) -- Sutro Tower, the Bay Area's most visible icon, turns 40 on July 4, marking four decades of hosting antennas that safely deliver clear signals throughout the region.

The 977-foot-high steel tower is used by 11 television stations, four FM radio stations, satellite and cable providers, and public safety agencies and commercial wireless communication services and designated by the City of San Francisco as an "essential facility" because it is an essential part of the City's emergency communications facility.

"Sutro Tower fills a critical need in Bay Area communications," said Eric Dausman, VP & General Manager of Sutro Tower, Inc. "As wireless technology has evolved over the past 40 years and is poised to be even more important in the future, the tower will continue to provide non-stop, clear signals for broadcasters, emergency first responders, and other users to benefit everyone in the region."

To mark the anniversary, Mayor Ed Lee issued a proclamation declaring today "Sutro Tower Day" in San Francisco. In addition, there is a contest open to the public for the best photograph of the tower; details are at www.sutrotower.com.

Sutro Tower is named for the hill at its base, Mount Sutro, which is named for Adolph Sutro, a Gold Rush engineer and real estate investor who was elected mayor of San Francisco in 1894. His grandson, Adolph G. Sutro, built a mansion on the hill in the 1930s and sold it in 1948 to American Broadcasting Company, for use as the studio and transmitter site for City's first television station. In the 1960s, as the Bay Area grew and residents in many areas complained of poor television reception, the area's principal television stations developed a plan to build a single tall tower and transmission building on the site to enhance broadcasting.

The \$4 million Sutro Tower project began construction in 1971 and was completed in 1973; broadcasting from the tower began on July 4, 1973.

The tower was constructed to safely meet a government requirement that Sutro Tower be made available for all broadcasters, present and future. Today there are more than 200 antennas on the tower; an application for a permit has been submitted to the City's Department of Building Inspection to add new receivers and transmitters requested by television and radio stations, public agencies, and other wireless providers.

"Sutro Tower is the heart of our region's broadcasting and emergency communications," Dausman said. "The 40th anniversary is a celebration of safety, cooperation and success, and a promise for wireless excellence going forward."

40th Anniversary Sutro Tower Facts

1. Sutro Tower is 977 feet high, with a base elevation of 834 feet, so its highest antennas are 1,811 feet above sea level.
2. The Tower's three legs are embedded in 15 million pounds of concrete.
3. The Tower is made of 3.5 million pounds of steel.
4. The Tower was designed by Albert C. Martin & Associates of Los Angeles.
5. From 1949 to 1973, there was a 588-foot tower nearby, but it did not provide a clear television signal to many parts of the Bay Area. It was removed after Sutro Tower was completed.
6. A two-person cage elevator takes workers up the Tower.
7. Emissions from the Tower are measured regularly at 200 nearby locations, and have never reached or exceeded the safety standards for radio transmission established by the Federal Communications Commission.
8. More than 1 million Bay Area residents receive their television signals directly from Sutro Tower's antennas; in addition, satellite and cable systems use the Tower to deliver the television programming they provide to their local customers.
9. The Tower is not open to the public.
10. Information about the Tower is available at www.sutrotower.com.