FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif., (February 2016) Irvine Company owns and manages two of Southern California’s most prestigious outdoor shopping centers, Fashion Island in Newport Beach and Irvine Spectrum Center in Irvine. These centers are popular destinations for shopping, dining and entertainment for domestic and international travelers from around the world. The centers are recognized for their stunning architecture, outdoor gardens, fountains and a combined total of over 300 department stores, specialty shops, restaurants and cafes.

Fashion Island is home to over 60 shops and restaurants located nowhere else in Orange County, including Neiman Marcus. Irvine Spectrum Center offers a unique mix of entertainment venues, such as IMAX, Improv Comedy Club, Dave & Buster’s and a 108-foot Giant Wheel with LED lighting to complement their shopping and dining offerings, making each center an integral part of every travel itinerary.

In addition to Fashion Island and Irvine Spectrum Center, Irvine Company is an internationally renowned real estate development company known for its award-winning master planned communities and its vast portfolio of high-quality investment properties located throughout San Diego, Los Angeles and Orange counties. However, few travelers realize that in addition to great shopping and dining, Irvine Company is also responsible for providing them with the opportunity to explore more than 57,000 acres of open space and parklands in Orange County.

As a privately held, diversified company, Irvine Company traces its roots to the 1860’s with the formation of The Irvine Ranch from Mexican and Spanish land grants. In 1897, Irvine Company made its first gift of land to the public, several hundred oak and sycamore filled acres that today form Irvine Regional Park. This set into motion a remarkable history of philanthropy and stewardship on The Irvine Ranch that continues to this day.

In 2014, Irvine Company Chairman Donald Bren presented another gift of 2,500 acres in North Orange County. That gift capped a long list of preservation actions by Irvine Company that have created one of the nation’s largest urban open space networks. The company’s efforts have resulted in the permanent preservation of 57,000 acres or nearly 60 percent of the entire 93,000 acre Irvine Ranch.

Visitors from around the world can enjoy a myriad of great Southern California scenic spaces and outdoor activities including hiking, bird watching, boating and more at locations such as Crystal Cove State Park, Los Trancos and Moro canyons, the Westbay habitat at Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve and the Mountains to Sea Trail, which travels from Weir Canyon all the way to Upper Newport Bay. A detailed timeline follows.

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Irvine Company’s History of Open Space

- 1864-James Irvine and three partners set in motion a chain of events that would ultimately preserve a vast portion of Orange County’s precious land forever. This early commitment to stewardship became a permanent guiding principle for what would be The Irvine Ranch, and ultimately become Irvine Company.

- 1897-The Irvine Ranch open space legacy begins when Irvine Company donates 304 oak and sycamore filled acres to the public. The donation creates what today is Irvine Regional Park.

- 1960s-Irvine Company begins master planning of The Irvine Ranch and estimates that, at build out, a total of 11% of the land would be set aside as parks and other open spaces.

- 1979-Irvine Company sells to the state of California 2,791 acres of prime ocean property for Crystal Cove State Park. The agreement preserves 3.5 miles of coastline and valuable biological resources in coastal foothills.

- 1982-Irvine Company adds to coastal open spaces, including Los Trancos and Moro canyons. More than 7,300 acres of coastal canyons are preserved through Newport Coast dedication. Combined with the earlier creation of Crystal Cove State Park, these steps result in a continuous coast open space network of more than 10,000 acres.

- 1989-Irvine Company donates 114 acres in Westbay, protecting important habitat at the 752-acre Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. The company also preserves about 6,000 acres of canyon lands on the northern reaches of The Irvine Ranch.

- 1992-Peters Canyon Regional Park, a 377-acre natural resource popular with hikers, bird-watchers and nature lovers was created following Irvine Company’s land donation.

- 1996-The Nature Reserve of Orange County is formed. Irvine Company contributes 21,000 of its total 37,000 acres.

- 2001-In a historic announcement, Irvine Company donates 11,000 acres of additional open space lands in the form of conservation easements. This ensures the permanent preservation of more than half of the entire 93,000 acre Irvine Ranch. Additionally, the Bren Stewardship Fund was established with a total of $50 million for long term management, restoration and expansion of public areas.

- 2004-More than 40 miles of new trails have been opened for public enjoyment.

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• 2005-Irvine Company announces the completion of the Mountains to Sea Trail, which travels from Wier Canyon all the way to Upper Newport Bay.

• 2006-At a bluff-top ceremony in Crystal Cove State Park, officials from the U.S. government and the state of California join Irvine Company and members of the public in celebrating the designation of The Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmark. In 2008, these open spaces were designated as the first-ever California Natural Landmark.

• 2010-Irvine Company signs a deed, signaling the transfer of 20,000 acres of open space to public ownership. Among other public benefits, the transfer enables the creation of a beautiful 2,000-acre wilderness park in rugged Black Star Canyon.

• 2014-Culminating more than 50 years of open space master planning, Irvine Company announces a major land gift of 2,500 acres near Anaheim Hill, East Orange and Irvine Lake. The gift brings the grand total of parklands and open space given by Irvine Company to nearly 57,000 acres or approximately 60% of the 93,000 acre Irvine Ranch.

About Fashion Island

As Orange County’s premier coastal shopping experience, Fashion Island features exclusive specialty boutiques, world-class department stores and a diverse assortment of restaurants and cafes. With 15 million visitors a year, Fashion Island offers a sophisticated yet relaxed, resort-like atmosphere that is distinctively Southern California, with pristine views of the Pacific Ocean.

Owned by Irvine Company, Fashion Island is home to Nordstrom, Bloomingdale’s, Bloomingdale’s Home Store and Macy’s – in addition to Orange County’s only Neiman Marcus, Nespresso, Urban Decay, Nike, SoulCycle, Trina Turk, Vince, Joie and Halston Heritage. Fashion Island also features acclaimed restaurants such as Sushi Roku, FIG & OLIVE, Red O by Rick Bayless, CUCINA enoteca, Hopdoddy Burger Bar, Lemonade, True Food Kitchen and R+D Kitchen. For more information, please visit ShopFashionIsland.com.

About Irvine Spectrum Center

Irvine Spectrum Center is one of Southern California’s most popular shopping, dining and entertainment lifestyle destinations, visited by more than 17 million people annually. The center features Nordstrom and Target, along with more than 130 stores, restaurants and entertainment venues, including the country’s most successful Improv Comedy Club, as well as Orange County’s most popular movie theater, a 6,400-seat, 21-screen movie theater with an IMAX screen. Recent additions include: Kona Grill, CREAM, Pressed Juicery, BRIO Tuscan Grille, Del Frisco’s Grille, Umami Burger, and TLT Food. For more information, please visit ShopIrvineSpectrumCenter.com.

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