

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Christine Ricci

Vice President of Public Relations

B. E. Smith

913-708-8913

cricci@besmith.com

Tamara Tilley

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

760-499-3901

t.tilley@rrh.org

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital Hires New CEO

RIDGECREST, California. (March 10, 2009)—After nearly 30 years with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Chief Executive Officer David Mechtenberg recently passed the torch to Jim Suver, a California native with a rich history of healthcare leadership in the state. Suver, who assumed the chief executive officer role for the hospital on February 17, has spent his entire healthcare leadership career in California.

“Jim has an in-depth understanding of California’s healthcare environment and the unique needs of Ridgecrest Regional,” Mechtenberg said. “He’s totally committed to serving the community and maintaining the high standard of quality care that we expect for our community.”

As chief executive officer, Suver is responsible for the strategic direction and vision of Ridgecrest Regional, including quality of care, recruitment and retention of staff and the scope of services in fulfilling the hospital’s mission. He will work closely with the Board of Directors and the community to ensure the hospital continues to meet and exceed the needs of the southern Sierra region.

Prior to joining Ridgecrest Regional, Suver served as the chief administrative officer for Petaluma Valley Hospital, a member of St. Joseph Health System-Sonoma County in Santa Rosa, California. Previously, he served as the administrator and chief executive officer for Fremont-Rideout Health Group for the Biggs-Gridley Memorial Hospital in Yuba City, California. He has also held leadership positions for other California healthcare organizations, including Catholic Healthcare West in San Francisco and Sutter Health System in Vallejo.

“As the only regional healthcare system in the area, Ridgecrest Regional is completely immersed in its community. It provides a high level of comprehensive care to the southern Sierra

region,” said Kathy Noland, senior vice president of executive search for B. E. Smith, the leadership solutions firm who matched Suver with the hospital. “With a major construction project in process and some big shoes to fill with the outgoing CEO, they needed an executive with strong leadership and interpersonal skills who was familiar with California healthcare and its requirements. Jim was a perfect fit.”

Suver received a master’s in healthcare administration from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California, and a bachelor’s in business administration from Chico State University in Chico, California. Additionally, he has held adjunct faculty roles for both of these universities.

About Ridgecrest Regional Hospital:

Established in the mid-1940s to provide medical care for the nearby China Lake Weapons Station and surrounding area, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital is a full service, acute-care hospital, certified by The Joint Commission, the State Department of Health Services and the California Medical Association. The hospital, which is licensed to operate by the State of California, is a nonprofit community organization governed by a nine-person Board of Directors. The hospital is licensed for 55 acute-care beds providing for perinatal, pediatric, intensive care and medical/surgical services. For more information, visit www.rrh.org.

About B. E. Smith:

Founded in 1978, B. E. Smith is a full-service leadership solutions firm for healthcare providers. B. E. Smith’s comprehensive suite of services includes interim leadership, permanent executive search and consulting solutions. The company is comprised of veteran healthcare leaders who partner with organizations to create solutions to meet the unique needs of each client served. In 2008, B. E. Smith placed more than 600 leaders into healthcare organizations worldwide. For more information, visit www.besmith.com or call 877-802-4593.

###