



**THOMAS WEISEL PARTNERS GROUP, INC. HIRES SENIOR CONSUMER ANALYST
-- Fitzhugh Taylor to Cover Restaurants --**

San Francisco, CA, July 15, 2008 -- Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: TWPG; TSX: TWP), a growth sector focused investment bank, announced the hiring of Fitzhugh Taylor as a Director and Senior Equity Research Analyst. Mr. Taylor will cover the restaurant industry and will be based in San Francisco.

With the addition of Fitzhugh Taylor, Thomas Weisel Partners' research coverage of the Consumer sector has now grown to seven professionals covering over 90 companies. Mr. Taylor has over ten years of industry experience and is widely recognized by the investment community for his expertise in the restaurant industry. Before joining Thomas Weisel Partners, Mr. Taylor held senior research positions at Banc of America Securities and Robertson Stephens. He was ranked the Top Earnings Estimator and among Top 3 Stock Pickers in Restaurants by Forbes in 2006.

"Fitzhugh Taylor is a respected analyst with an excellent track record covering restaurant stocks," commented Keith Gay, Head of Equity Research at Thomas Weisel Partners. "This addition is indicative of our focus on the overall consumer sector and our commitment to providing research coverage of growth sectors that are rich in opportunity for our institutional investor base."

Thomas Weisel Partners has received key industry accolades, receiving four analyst honors in the Financial Times/StarMine's 2008 Analyst Survey and six analysts were named among the Best Brokerage Analysts by Forbes.com. Thomas Weisel Partners now has 36 equity research professionals in the US, Canada and Europe covering over 480 companies in the areas of consumer, energy, financial services, healthcare, Internet, media & telecom, metals & mining, and technology.

About Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc.

Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc. is an investment bank, founded in 1998, focused principally on the growth sectors of the economy. Thomas Weisel Partners Group, Inc. generates revenues from three principal sources: investment banking, brokerage and asset management. The investment banking group is comprised of two disciplines: corporate finance and strategic advisory. The brokerage group provides equity and convertible debt securities sales and trading services to institutional investors, and offers brokerage, advisory and cash management services to high-net-worth individuals and corporate clients. The asset management group consists of: private equity, public equity and distribution management. Thomas Weisel Partners is headquartered in San Francisco with additional offices in Baltimore, Boston, Calgary, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, New York, Portland, Silicon Valley, Toronto, London, Mumbai and Zurich. For more information, please visit www.tweisel.com.

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