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NEWS FROM: COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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PRESS RELEASE

LOCAL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FIRST ANTELOPE VALLEY WATERSHED EARTH DAY EVENT

150 Ocotillo Elementary School students will join Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (5th District) to kick-off the first Antelope Valley Watershed Earth Day. In addition to planting trees and shrubs in an adjacent open space area, the students hope to bring attention to the vital role the Valley plays as a natural watershed area.

What began as a step to educate students about the value of the Antelope Valley Watershed's natural resources has led to an activity that prevents and cleans up neighborhood pollution, conserves water, and provides a visually pleasing environment around their school. To help achieve their goal, students with support from local business and community leaders, will plant shrubs and trees across the street from their school. As the plants mature, the Ocotillo students' efforts will pay dividends in the form of providing shade, beauty, and improved habitat.

This event emphasizes the fact that we all live in a watershed. Every activity within our watershed can have a positive or negative impact on our quality of life. The message is to take actions that benefit the health of the watershed and conserve the natural resources. The small act of planting trees and shrubs will bring environmental awareness to the students and residents, as well as provide landscape enhancements and a sense of school and community pride.

More

The Earth Day event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2007, and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Ocotillo Elementary is located at 38737 Ocotillo School Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551. The event will take place along the eastern edge of Ocotillo School Drive in unincorporated Palmdale (TG: 4195 F7)

Background

A watershed is an area of land where rain water collects and then drains onto a lower level of land or into a river, ocean, or other body of water. This natural process of moving rain water from its sources to other areas is important to providing us with water that we need to live and support our communities. The Antelope Valley watershed straddles the Los Angeles-Kern County line and encompasses approximately 1,200 square miles of Los Angeles County. The portion of the watershed within Los Angeles County contains the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster.

About the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of roads, bridges, airports, sewers, water supply, flood control, water quality and water conservation facilities, and for the design and construction of capital projects. The Department operates and maintains 15 major dams, nearly 500 miles of open channel, 2,500 miles of underground storm drain and more than 70,000 catch basins.

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