Community volunteers to start critical planting phase of Vallecitos Water District’s sustainable garden

San Marcos, CA – When some in the community heard about Vallecitos Water District’s new sustainable garden and the need for volunteers, they weren’t content to just listen. They decided to dig in.

This upcoming Saturday, starting at 8 a.m., community volunteers and students from the San Marcos High School Future Farmers of America course will plant California Natives and other California-friendly plants – the next critical phase to the garden redesign taking place at the District’s San Marcos facility at 201 Vallecitos de Oro.

Keeping with the sustainability theme, these plants will provide year-round color and help dispel the notion that waterwise plants are boring. Just as the workers installing the plants will donate their time, Buena Creek Gardens, a local nursery which specializes in drought tolerant plants, will donate the plants. Agri Service Inc. will also donate the necessary compost and mulch essential to retaining plant moisture and reducing the need for fertilizers that can be detrimental to the environment.

Soon after the plants and compost are placed by the volunteers, Tarzian Landscape, water-efficient irrigation systems installation specialist, will install a highly efficient irrigation system and weather-based irrigation controller (WBIC) donated by Hunter Industries. The technologically advanced system uses weather data and plant type to develop a tailor-made irrigation schedule that prevents over watering.

Vallecitos’ demonstration of this technology doesn’t end there. Two units – one donated by Hunter Industries and the other Rain Bird – will be prominently displayed in the completed garden. Neither will be connected for irrigation purposes. Instead they will be available as hands-on displays for visitors to become more familiar with these conservation devices that are so critical for a water-sustaining future.
The installation of plants, mulch, and irrigation controllers is just one aspect of the work being performed in front of Vallecitos Water District’s Administration, Maintenance and Operations Facility.

Once complete in October 2010, the sustainable garden will also feature a 2,500 gallon rainwater harvesting system that will supply water to decorative water features, a variety of rockscapes, and shelters to complement the existing synthetic turf.

A dedication ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010.

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*Vallecitos Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 85,600 people in a 45-square-mile area that includes San Marcos; the community of Lake San Marcos; portions of Carlsbad, Escondido and Vista; and other surrounding unincorporated areas. The public is invited to Board meetings, taking place at 4 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month at Vallecitos’ Administration, Maintenance, and Operations Facility - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos.*