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201 Vallecitos de Oro • San Marcos, California • 92069 • (760) 744-0460

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Rain barrel installation starts first phase of garden makeover

San Marcos, CA – Today, crews installed rain barrels, the first critical phase to the landscape makeover taking place the next few months in front of Vallecitos Water District's Administration, Operations & Maintenance Building. Once complete, the new garden – the first of its kind in the area – will serve as a demonstration of sustainability for all visitors to observe.

The 2,500 gallon rainwater harvesting system will be a critical element to meeting the water needs for the garden's soon-to-be installed water features that will operate with rainwater and solar powered pumps. The barrels were donated at cost by Bushman Rainwater Harvesting and installation was donated by ACE Rain Systems. They will be visible in the new garden and will offer customers an example of an alternative to potable water, especially in times of drought.

Once complete by fall 2010, the garden will also feature a variety of rockscapes, shade structures, and California-friendly plants to complement the existing synthetic turf that is already in the garden.

On a smaller scale, the garden will be mimicking the District's overall sustainability initiative. In the past 10 years, Vallecitos has constructed two of the region's largest underground storage facilities, upgraded and more than doubled the recycled water output capacity at its Meadowlark Wastewater Reclamation Plant, erected solar ports over employee and fleet parking to power most of its headquarter facilities, and recently signed on as a partner to eventually receive desalinated water from Carlsbad.

All of these moves benefit the environment by lowering demand for precious natural resources and benefit Vallecitos customers with controlled operating costs to prevent sudden rate hikes.

Conceptualized by Vallecitos staff and Palomar College students, the entire project is being completed at little cost to the District. In addition to donated products and services from local schools and businesses, Vallecitos will apply for financial grants to further reduce the cost.

The garden will be highlighted during the District's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Open House on Saturday, October 16, 2010, where the public will be invited to learn more about the District, rainwater harvesting and low-water gardening.

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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.***