

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2010

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Palomar College, Vallecitos Water District collaborate on new sustainability demonstration garden

San Marcos, CA – Sustainability has become a vital element to the Vallecitos Water District's service reliability strategy for the future, and for evidence of this, customers will soon need to look no further than outside the facility's main entrance.

Working in conjunction with Sustainable Design course students from Palomar College, District staff received final approval from the Vallecitos Board of Directors to move forward with transforming the current landscape in front of the headquarters at 201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos to one of rockscapes, California native plants, rain barrels, and landscape features that will use rainwater harvesting and solar power to demonstrate water and energy conservation.

The final, more environmentally friendly design selected is a combination of two proposals presented by five separate groups of students. One features the use of boulders and rocks to simulate dry riverbeds meandering near the front entrance. The other design incorporates a unique sculpture to artistically convey the immense value of water.

Leading by sustainability example, the majority of the garden's water needs will be met by 2,500 gallons of rainwater that will be collected through a rainwater harvesting system and small solar systems will provide any necessary power.

The completed garden renovation will include new shade structures – also taken from one of the proposals – to improve functionality for garden visitors and Vallecitos employees.

Once completed by fall of 2010, the garden will be one of the few locations in North San Diego County that demonstrates sustainability for all to visit.

The garden is being constructed at very little cost to the District. In addition to donated products and services from local schools and businesses, which will be highlighted and acknowledged in the garden, Vallecitos will apply for financial grants to further reduce the cost.

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Vallecitos Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing water, wastewater and reclamation services to approximately 80,650 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 VWD's Administration, Maintenance, and Operations Facility - 201 Vallecitos de Oro, San Marcos.