

Media Invitation



The Water Conservation Garden

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(619) 660-0614

<http://www.thegarden.org>

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April 9, 2008

“Promoting water conservation in the southern California landscape through excellent exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public.”

Water Conservation Garden to Offer Free Water Conservation Workshops to HOAs *Workshop to be part of a series of water saving educational programs*

RANCHO SAN DIEGO, CA--- Two free workshops, offered by the **Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College** (www.thegarden.org), show how homeowner associations and landscapers can be powerful allies in conserving water in the landscape. The new workshops provide HOA property managers, board members, and landscapers with strategies to lower the amount of water used at their sites, and ultimately save money, by working together.

The next “Saving Water and Money for Your Homeowners Association” workshops will be held:

Date: Friday, May 9, 2008
Time: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: The Rancho Bernardo Library
17110 Bernardo Center Drive
San Diego, CA 92128

Date: Friday, June 20
Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Location: Vallecitos Water District
201 Vallecitos De Oro
San Marcos, CA 92069

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Interested participants can pre-register at (619) 660-0614 x 10. Workshops and parking are free.

Topics include an update on the San Diego water situation, short-term remedies for water conservation, using a landscape architect to plan for the future, and legal issues for HOAs involved in landscape changes. The San Diego County Water Authority will discuss the various incentive programs offered by local water agencies. . In addition to water agency staff members, experts on the workshop panel include the Water Conservation Garden Manager of Horticulture, and a lawyer and a landscape architect with years of experience working with HOAs..

The goal is for property managers, board members, and landscape professionals to attend the workshop together so that improvements and action items in all areas of property management can be addressed.

“This is a valuable, fast-paced workshop that is packed with real-world solutions from several landscape and HOA experts,” said Marty Eberhardt, Executive Director of the Water Conservation Garden.

The workshop is the result of a recommendation in a water conservation white paper recently released by the San Diego County Water Authority. The white paper recommended planning several half-day “how to” sessions on improving landscape water use efficiency. These “how to” outreach and education sessions would target homeowners association (HOA) management companies and boards, landscape contractors, landscape architects, and irrigation suppliers to inform HOAs how they can participate in financial incentive programs, and implement landscape water-saving techniques.

The white paper summarizes input from participants in the 2007 Water Conservation

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Summit and it recommends actions to advance key provisions of the Water Authority's Blueprint for Water Conservation. (Post Summit White Paper and the Blueprint are available at:

<http://www.waterconservationsummit.com>.)

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