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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valley District Promotes Water Conservation Garden

San Bernardino, CA – The Valley District Board of Directors voted unanimously to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with California State University, San Bernardino, CSUSB Foundation, Water Resources Institute, and Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens to develop a Water Conservation Demonstration Garden to be located on the CSUSB Campus. Valley District agreed to provide the funds necessary to design the Garden, which will be constructed on a principal walking path leading to Coussoulis Arena and Jack Brown Hall. The site consists of 1.5 acres of mainly turf grass surrounded by walkways and parking lots. By converting this water intensive landscape to attractive California friendly plants, Valley District and its partners continue to demonstrate their commitment to the wise use of water. As envisioned, this innovative partnership will bring together the expertise necessary to design, construct and operate a premiere water use efficiency demonstration garden. Once the design is completed later this spring, construction will begin funded through a combination of Valley District funds and various grants and donations. The University has graciously dedicated the land, and will provide the ongoing maintenance for the Conservation Garden. The Water Resources Institute will be promoting community education and academic use through outreach programs along with assisting with the solicitation of grants and donations. Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden staff will be providing expert consultation on the design and operation of the Garden.

“The Valley District is pleased to be working with these distinguished partners in the design and construction of this Garden. The Garden will highlight the beauty of California Friendly landscapes and promote a better understanding of water conservation, sustainable practices, and energy efficiency”, stated Randy Van Gelder, General Manager of Valley District. This program is part of Valley District’s ongoing efforts to increase water use efficiency throughout the region in the face of drought conditions and new regulatory restrictions on imported water from Northern California.

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President Karnig of California State University, San Bernardino, stated in a letter to the Valley District Board of Directors, "As we move into the future, all citizens must be exposed to the beauty of water-efficient landscapes; and we must offer them public places in their own communities to learn about the water-saving plant materials and irrigation systems. Over the years, millions will view this beautiful garden and learn how to incorporate water-conserving measures into their own landscapes."

President Karnig joined the Valley District Board in thanking the Water Resources Institute, which was established on campus in 1999 to serve the Inland Empire as a center where academics, water professionals, political, business, and policy leaders, as well as the public could come together to learn and to solve problems related to water resources by stating, "This Demonstration Garden project is proof that this is happening, to the benefit of all. The community is stronger with these types of partnerships, as is the University."

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