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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Valley District and Inland Empire Resource Conservation District Partner
on Community Water Conservation Garden**

San Bernardino, CA – The Valley District Board of Directors accepted a \$50,000 donation from Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for the proposed Community Water Conservation Garden to be located at California State University, San Bernardino campus. 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. “The (IERCD) is excited to partner with Valley District, the Water Resources Institute, CSUSB and Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden on the creation of a native plant demonstration garden,” stated Jennifer Ares, IERCD District Manager.

“Valley District is pleased to partner with IERCD and accept this generous donation for the design and construction of this Garden. Working together with our partners, this garden will promote a better understanding of water conservation, sustainable practices, and energy efficiency”, stated Randy Van Gelder, General Manager of Valley District.

One of the main organizational goals of the IERCD is the conveyance of the importance of water conservation education to the community, particularly to residents of the naturally arid region of the Inland Empire. Both Valley District and the IERCD believe the current water crisis in the state of California has increased the need for such outreach, as it is becoming increasingly vital to protect our water resources as our population grows. The garden will also provide an excellent location for conducting environmental education programs for students of all ages. The IERCD will work with the other garden partners to develop and present a series of water-wise outdoor educational seminars consistent with the California state standards for science curriculum, to students ranging from five to eighteen years of age. “The exposure to the benefits of a water-efficient lifestyle cannot begin early enough, and it is the IERCD’s belief that the true value of this garden is that it will demonstrate those principles to our area students in perpetuity”, stated Jennifer P. Ares.

Now in the design phase, construction will begin in the fall funded through a combination of Valley District funds and various grants and donations, including the one from the IERCD. Valley District, the Water Resources Institute and IERCD will be promoting community education and academic use through various outreach programs. The Garden will have a variety of uses from classroom education to providing community with a better understanding of our natural history, art and real-time data on water conservation practices. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact: Jo McAndrews, Valley District Water Conservation Program Manager at (909)387-9200.

Photo: IERCD, Paul Williams, Board President, Jennifer Ares District Manager

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