

Volunteers Restore Local California Historical Landmark for 7th Annual Temescal Valley Great American Cleanup

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste Management

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Community volunteers and Waste Management join the country's largest community improvement initiative

Temescal Valley, CA - April 30, 2015 - On Saturday, April 25, volunteers and the Waste Management El Sobrante Landfill came together to beautify the historic Serrano Tanning Vats for Temescal Valley's 7th Annual Great American Cleanup. During the four hour event, over 85 volunteers planted a drought tolerant garden around the Serrano Tanning Vats, which are designated as a California Historical Landmark, and removed discarded trash from the nearby Temescal Wash.

The Great American Cleanup, founded by the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization, is the country's largest community improvement initiative that brings together four million volunteers nationwide to beautify and improve more than 17,000 communities. Each year, KAB and Waste Management award thousands of dollars in \$5,000- \$4,000 Think Green Grants® to support Great American Cleanups across the country. To date, the Temescal Valley Heritage Foundation has received a total of \$38,000 in Think Green Grants® and has utilized the funds to organize annual Great American Cleanups and youth-based environmental learning programs.

For this year's Great American Cleanup, community volunteers and the Temescal Valley Beautification Committee focused their attention on enhancing the area surrounding the Serrano Tanning Vats, which was neglected and polluted with illegal dumping. Riverside County's First District Supervisor Kevin Jeffries kicked-off the Great American Cleanup and commended the volunteers for their community involvement.

Volunteers ranging from children to adults weeded the historical landmark and planted succulents, cactus and Palo Verde trees. The volunteers also added gravel landscaping, painted bollards that protect the monument from trucks, and erected a Temescal Valley community sign.

According to the California State Office of Historic Preservation, the Serrano Tanning Vats were built by the Luiseño Native Americans in 1819 to produce leather from cowhides. The vats were built under the direction of Leandro Serrano, the first Riverside County non-Indian settler, and were restored and moved to a vacant lot in Temescal Valley that is east of the I-15 Temescal Canyon Road exit.

In addition to the monetary support from the Think Green Grants®, local businesses such as the El Sobrante Landfill and Werner Corporation offered in-kind donations and staff support. Boy Scout Troop 13, the Temescal Heritage Foundation, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Corona Stake and the Riverside County Waste Management Department also played key roles in the event's success.

Waste Management supports KAB on numerous programs designed to increase recycling and support community sustainability. Be sure to go to www.facebook.com/WasteManagement, www.kabcleanup.org, @WasteManagement, and <http://www.twitter.com/kabtweet> to view what volunteers around the country are doing in support of the Great American Cleanup.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL

Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill is located in the unincorporated area of Riverside County. The landfill serves more than one million Inland Empire residents and is a critical component of Riverside County and the greater Los Angeles region's infrastructure. The site has more than 650 acres in permanent preservation and is a critical component of preserving open space in Riverside County. For more information on the landfill, please go to www.keepinginlandempireclean.com.

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