

Boy Scout Earns Eagle Scout Rank by Leading Local Troop to Cultivate Rare Plant Species

Temescal Valley Boy Scouts and Waste Management work together to propagate Many-stemmed Dudleya in El Sobrante Wildlife Preserve

TEMESCAL VALLEY, Calif.—Dec. 5, 2014 —Waste Management hosted its first volunteer-based restoration project for Many-stemmed Dudleya to support local Boy Scout, Brandon Mendoza, with earning his Eagle Scout Rank, the highest grade in Boy Scouts of America.

Waste Management's El Sobrante Wildlife Preserve has the largest population of Many-stemmed Dudleya in Western Riverside County with about 33,800 plants. The Many-stemmed Dudleya is native to Riverside County and sprouts yellow star-shaped flowers in April through June. As a California Native Plant Society List 1B species, the small succulent could qualify as rare, threatened, or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

Brandon led Temescal Valley Boy Scout Troop 107 to plant thousands of Many-stemmed Dudleya seeds in Waste Management's 680-acre El Sobrante Wildlife Preserve. The project supports the landfill's goal to preserve the rare species through supplemental planting and direct seeding of rock outcrops, which is where the plant typically grows.

The implementation of the conservation project was twofold. First, Brandon and the Boy Scouts processed seeds for planting. Working with the El Sobrante Landfill biologist, the volunteers crushed dried Many-stemmed Dudleya stems with rolling pins and separated the seeds with sifters. They then planted the seeds adjacent to rock outcrops where the succulent naturally occurs. Replicating the plant's habitat, the scouts stacked volcanic rocks closely together and filled the crevices with clay soil and moss to foster successful seed germination.

The landfill biologist will monitor the scouts' restoration plot to track the Many-stemmed Dudleya's growth rate and overall success.

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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