

Local Scouts Conserve Wildlife by Collaborating with Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste Management

Media

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Boy scouts from Murrieta and Temecula will work together to protect the endangered burrowing owl species

April. 24, 2012, Temescal Valley, CA - Over 50 boy scouts will participate in a two-day conservation project event to help build underground burrows in the El Sobrante Wildlife Preserve to increase the population of the rare burrowing owl.

The burrowing owl, once common throughout Riverside County, is facing a rapid decline due to various environmental factors. The owl's habitat is open grasslands, and it nests in underground burrows dug out by other animals, such as the ground squirrel. Although active both day and night, the bird is rarely spotted.

Waste Management has committed more than 650 acres of its El Sobrante Landfill area to a permanent wildlife preserve. Besides the burrowing owl, other endangered and protected species that live in the wildlife preserve include the coastal California gnatcatcher and stephen's kangaroo rat.

El Sobrante staff works closely with conservation land managers from the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) towards efforts to conserve thousands of acres along the Lake Matthews area for the protection of many animal and plant species. The burrowing owl conservation project is a joint effort to increase the population to at least five in the Lake Matthews region.

With the assistance of RCHCA staff and the El Sobrante biologist, the boy scouts will build six underground burrows, in which the owls and their descendants can use for years. A biologist will monitor the area to measure the success of the burrows.

"The underlying theme of this event is to engage youths through awareness and teamwork, while providing them the opportunity to execute environmental solutions in collaboration with experts like our El Sobrante biologist and RCHCA staff," said Miriam Cardenas, Community Relations Specialist. "Together, the boy scouts are building homes for owls that need their help, which is a commendable example of environmental stewardship."

The Burrowing Owl Conservation Project Event:

When: Friday, April 27: Boy Scout Pack 369 out of Temecula
Saturday, April 28: Cub Scouts Pack 318 Den 4 out of Murrieta
Location: 10910 Dawson Canyon Road Corona, CA 92883

Additionally, the boy scouts will tour the El Sobrante Landfill to gain an up-close understanding on the need to recycle and apply green practices.

Since 2000, Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill and Wildlife Preserve has been providing outdoor education programs that give students, scouts and the community at large hands-on experiences about waste, recycling and environmental stewardship.



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About Waste Management El Sobrante Landfill and Wildlife Preserve:

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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