



RCWD News Release

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT
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DATE: December 13, 2012

RELEASE: Immediate

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SUBJECT: *Rancho California Water District Hosts Santa Margarita River Seminar, Cleanup and Tree Planting*

Temecula, CA December 13, 2012 – Water rights, water quality planning, wildlife and environmental concerns associated with the Santa Margarita River were discussed in a seminar conducted Dec. 7, 2012 at the headquarters of the Rancho California Water District (RCWD) in association with the American Bar Association, the Association of California Water Agencies, and law firm Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

Speakers from the U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendelton, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego State Ecological Preserve, and RCWD presented informative and timely updates on this important California resource, which is one of the few rivers in the Southern California region that is still in relatively natural condition.

Following the seminar, approximately 40 participants met at the Temecula Gorge, which is at the confluence of Murrieta Creek and

Temecula Creek, and proceeded to remove trash from in and around the waterway. They also planted 30 Coastal Oak trees near the bank of the river.

The Santa Margarita River is an important water and ecological resource in the region, hosting myriad wildlife species and serving as an important component of the water supply for the Camp Pendelton Marine Base.

“The seminar and field activities were an unqualified success and will serve to help facilitate communication and coordination among the various stakeholders represented at the event,” said Richard Williamson, RCWD Assistant General Manager.

Jeremy Jungreis, an attorney with Rutan & Tucker, and the overall coordinator for the event, provided a similarly positive assessment. “This successful event demonstrates the potential for attorneys, public agency officials, environmentalists and regulators to work together in finding solutions for shared Southern California watersheds. It isn’t always easy to solve water disputes, but working together on projects like this helps all sides to better understand the big picture. This was a great project.”

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Formed in 1965, Rancho California Water District supplies an area consisting of approximately 150 square miles. The District serves the area known as Temecula/Rancho California, which includes the City of Temecula, parts of Murrieta, and other contiguous lands. The District is separated into two divisions: the Santa Rosa Division generally west of I-15 and Rancho Division generally east of I-15. The District currently provides sewer service to the Cal Oaks and Bear Creek areas.

“The mission of the Rancho California Water District is to deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater and reclamation services to its customers and communities in a prudent and sustainable manner.”

