

Contact: Jimmy Tokeshi
(213) 978-1699
(213) 978-0333

Email: Jimmy.Tokeshi@lacity.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN PLANT TREES ON IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

Board of Public Works Applauds Tree Musketeers and “Trees to the Sea” Project



LOS ANGELES (March 12, 2007) – On Arbor Day along the median of Imperial Highway between the terminus of the Glenn Anderson Freeway (I-105) and the Hyperion Treatment Plant near El Segundo more than 700 volunteers, elected officials and community leaders planted 121 trees and conducted litter removal activities. Tree Musketeers, a 2005/2006 and 2006/2007

- MORE -

CHILDREN GROUP PLANTS TREES ON IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

Page 2 of 3

Community Beautification Grant recipient of the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification (OCB), completed the third of four tree plantings on Imperial Highway to create a beautiful tree-lined boulevard.

“Every Community Beautification Grant project makes a significant difference to keep Los Angeles beautiful,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, President for the Board of Public Works. “Our youth pushing this project to fruition is tremendous and it’s an honor that the City can support their efforts.”



PHOTO CAPTION: Vehicles and passersby blow their horns in support of the crowd of tree-planting volunteers.
Photos by: Michael Espinosa

“The Tree Musketeers are to be commended for taking it upon themselves to change a long barren strip of land and transform this important gateway to our beaches,” said OCB Grant Manager Michael Espinosa. “This area has been difficult to address because it sits right on the line between the City of Los Angeles and the City of El Segundo, but Tree Musketeers made it work.”

Tree Musketeers, founded by Brownie Girl Scouts in 1987, is a nonprofit organization run by children through a youth management team that promotes environmental stewardship and leadership programs. The project known as “Trees to the Sea,” which began 17 years ago, focuses on changing the industrial landscape of Imperial Highway to a beautiful median that utilizes trees as an important element to create urban beauty as well as establishing the added benefits that nature brings to urban environments.

- MORE -

CHILDREN GROUP PLANTS TREES ON IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

Page 3 of 3

“The trees will work to clean the atmosphere of pollutants and greenhouse gases, filter storm water, work to reduce global warming, provide a sound barrier for airliners taking off from LAX, and transform Imperial Highway from a barren wasteland to a tree lined boulevard,” said Victoria Tam, Tree Musketeers Youth Management Team member.

The Community Beautification Grant’s annual cycle begins during the summer in July and closes in October. Proposals accepted from community-based organizations, a group of five or more individuals, must reside, work or take interest in beautifying a community in the City of Los Angeles. The trees planted as part of the Tree Musketeers “Trees to the Sea” project are registered with the City’s Million Trees LA Initiative.

For more information on the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification and Community Beautification Grants, please visit the office website at www.laocb.org.

About Board of Public Works

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City’s third largest municipal division. The department oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw/.

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