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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN CAMPUS CLEANUP AT BERTRAND ELEMENTARY Public Works Week Event Highlights Office of Community Beautification



Pictured: OCB's nonprofit contractor West Valley Alliance on the rooftop with Board of Public Works representatives Michelle Vargas and Paul Gomez assisting children in the cleanup at Bertrand Elementary School.

RESEDA, CA (May 23, 2007) – National Public Works Week in the City of Los Angeles saw the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification (OCB) deliver cleanup tools, assistance, 120 tree seedlings and six trees to more than 140 elementary school students at Bertrand Elementary School in the west San Fernando Valley.

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Pictured: Gerry Valido, OCB Community Coordinator loading rakes and brooms after a successful cleanup activity.

“Hands-on experimental volunteer cleanup and beautification experiences, particularly among our youth, foster a sense of personal responsibility and stewardship for the environment,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. “The city is honored to partner with LAUSD schools, students, teachers, parents and administrators to provide opportunities for cleanup and community improvement projects.”

The cleanup work concentrated on removing debris that had collected along the walkway rooftops and rain gutters of the campus. The rooftop work was performed by the West Valley Alliance, one of fifteen regional nonprofit contractors in the city used by OCB for graffiti and weed abatement. Blowers and rakes were used to push the dirt and leaves onto the ground. The school children then participated with OCB Director Paul Racs, OCB Community Coordinator Gerry Valido and other public works representatives to cleanup the debris.

“OCB is committed to engage schools in cleanup actions and to have students realize the benefit of their community participation and involvement,” said Racs. “The students

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demonstrated that power to improve their environment and we are proud to help them realize that strength.”

For more information on school campus cleanup and beautification projects, please call the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification at (213) 978-0228, e-mail to communitybeautification@lacity.org or visit 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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