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City Partners with Artists to Host "Paint-Out" at the Water Conservation Garden

Local Artists Capture the Beauty of Water-Wise Landscapes

SAN DIEGO - Local artists, grab your brushes, your watercolors and prepare to make some spectacular springtime art as the ninth annual "Paint-Out" at the City-supported Water Conservation Garden (Garden) takes place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 28, 2012. You don't have to be a Picasso to take part in this annual event, which welcomes the coming of spring and the beautiful native blooms that arrive with it. Watercolorists of all skill levels are welcome to capture on their canvases the lush, colorful scenery that springtime California-Friendly® blooms have brought to the Garden.

Co-sponsored by the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department and the San Diego Watercolor Society, the "Paint-Out" event will take place in the Garden's gazebo during the Spring Garden Festival, which this year celebrates urban farming. Accomplished artist Chuck McPherson will guide participants with a painting demonstration to introduce techniques that can be used in their interpretation of the water-wise garden. This event is free. You just need to bring your own materials and your own keen eye.

"We are grateful to the Garden and the San Diego Watercolor Society for showing us how beautiful water-efficient landscaping can be," said City of San Diego Water Resources Manager Luis Generoso. "With hotter months approaching, it is important for San Diegans to continue the water-wise ethic and remember that San Diegans Waste No Water."

"Not only does art empower, it's also an inspirational method to express oneself and convey a message. The Garden is the perfect backdrop to inspire all San Diegans to bring the beauty we paint to life in their gardens and yards," said San Diego Watercolor Society President Ally Benbrook.

The hours of the Spring Garden Festival are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking and admission are also free. The Garden is located on the campus of Cuyamaca College at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019. For more information on the festival or the Garden, please visit www.thegarden.org or call (619) 660-0614.

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For more information on the San Diego Watercolor Society, please visit www.sdws.org or call (619) 876-4550. For more information on the "Paint-Out" event, please contact Destree Bascos at (619) 232-2112, ext. 115, or via email at DestreeB@CollaborativeServices.biz.

The City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.wastenowater.org or call (619) 515-3500.

The City of San Diego is one of six Joint Powers Agencies that own **The Water Conservation Garden** and have contracted with Friends of the Water Conservation Garden, a nonprofit organization, to manage it. These agencies also provide major funding for the Garden in an effort to increase water conservation through excellent displays and programs that educate and inspire the public.

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