



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND FREE CITY OF SAN DIEGO YOUTH FORUM

SAN DIEGO, CA— Today's high school students will be tomorrow's leaders, so to prepare them for the region's big challenges, the City of San Diego invites all high school students living in the County of San Diego to attend San Diego Youth Forum 2005, to be held Saturday, April 9, 2005, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Ridgehaven "Green Building," 9601 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa, San Diego.

The 5th annual Youth Forum, titled "Creating a Path Toward a Sustainable Future," will explore what San Diego will be like in 2025. The keynote speakers:

- Dahlia Chazan, a research associate of Redefining Progress, a national organization seeking to shift the economy and public policy towards sustainability, and
- Paul Dana, the state coordinator for the Sierra Student Coalition, a national network of high school and college students working to protect the environment.

Also attending are staff representatives from City of San Diego Councilmembers Peters, Frye, Maienschein and Madaffer, along with members of the City of San Diego Youth Commission. The Commission members, between the ages of 14 and 22, are appointed by the Mayor to identify critical issues affecting the youth in the City and to provide advice and recommendations.

"This is one of the rare opportunities for students to clearly articulate their vision of the future in the presence of adults who are listening, and even taking notes," said Linda Pratt, program manager of the City of San Diego's Sustainable Community Program, which organizes the annual Youth Forum.

The students attending the forum will take an active role in discussing topics such as energy independence, water conservation, air quality, open space, jobs that pay a living wage, affordable housing, traffic, and adequate funding for schools.

Program organizers hope that as many as 125 high students will attend the free forum. To attend, e-mail Thomas Arnold at TArnold@sandiego.gov or download a registration form at www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml. Registration is due no later than April 4, 2005. For more information, telephone (858) 573-1287.

The San Diego Sustainable Community Program, which advances sustainable policies for the City, is a component of the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD). The Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling, and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. ESD oversees the City's management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence. For more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services.

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