



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Water Department

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Environmental Unity at eCommunity

By Dan Carney, Landscape Architect, City of San Diego Water Department

SAN DIEGO - In a joint partnership, the City of San Diego Water Department and San Diego EarthWorks will kick-off a new exhibit area at EarthFair on **Sunday, May 1, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Balboa Park**. The large exhibit, called '*eCommunity*', will be an attractive, engaging environment with interactive activities grouped by themes that represent San Diego's natural and urban environments.

The overall theme of the exhibit area is "*From the Mountains to the Ocean: We All Live in the Watershed*" and it will be structured to reflect this theme in a physical sense. Visitors to *eCommunity* may enter at the "Mountains" entrance where they will find exhibits related to our backcountry such as fire-safe homes, wildlife and habitat preservation, and forestry; or they may enter at the "Ocean" entrance where ocean-related exhibits will be on display. The center of the *eCommunity* area will feature a simulated river and riparian activities.

"We're always looking for new ways to educate people on water conservation, and we sought this as an opportunity to engage all aspects of environmental conservation in one creative venue. Our hope is that *eCommunity* stimulates learning and creates hands on experiences that people can take home with them, practice, and share with others," states Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego Water Department.

eCommunity will feature a variety of fun and educational activities the whole family can enjoy. Following is a preview of just a few:

- ◆ *Surfrider Foundation's Mess Up a Watershed*: Simulate polluted runoff by sprinkling on pollutants and spraying on water to see how contaminants are carried into streams and the oceans.
- ◆ *University of San Diego Marine Science & Environmental Science Program Marine Touch Tank*: Get the opportunity to touch live animals from the local marine ecosystem.
- ◆ *San Diego Natural History Museum's Paleontology Digging Activity*: Get your hands dirty and dig for real fossils while learning about the story of natural history.

- ◆ *City of San Diego's Watershed Mural:* Join in the creation of a mural around eCommunity while learning about flora and fauna of the natural habitat.
- ◆ *Home Technologies Virtual House:* Learn about energy efficient home appliances. Sponsored by Bosch Co., this exhibit will give visitors a chance to flush, push buttons, turn knobs, and operate a variety of the latest water and energy conserving devices.
- ◆ *Water Conservation Garden's Garden Sensory Cart:* Heighten your senses as you experience the wonders of low-water use plants using your nose, eyes, and ears.
- ◆ *City of San Diego's Robotic Weather Station:* Operate the timers and learn about the technology involved in weather monitoring and irrigation science.
- ◆ *Garden Design Answer Man:* For a nickel, ask the Answer Man a question about California friendly landscape design. Also, play with interactive computer programs that demonstrate how to design a unique landscape. Sponsored by GardenSoft.
- ◆ *Storm Drain Stencil:* Kids of all ages can get creative by stenciling animals that live downstream in our watersheds. Sponsored by the San Diego Regional Stormwater Copermittees and partners in Projects Clean Water.
- ◆ *Tiny tree give-away:* Practice preparing soil and learn how to plant trees properly. As a reward, take home a tree in a 2 in. pot to plant in their backyard. Sponsored by the San Diego League of Women Voters.
- ◆ *Composting Bin Race:* Challenge others to see who can roll their compost bins to the finish line first, and learn about the goldmine in your kitchen and how to transform scraps into delicious edibles. Hosted by the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation and the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department.
- ◆ *Worms:* See and feel the wonder of worms. Learn about their role in creating healthy soil through the science of vermiculture. Sponsored by the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation and the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department.
- ◆ *SDSU Geology Department's Landfill of the future:* Dig in to the future and learn that what we throw away now may one day be uncovered, as well as the importance of recycling and smart consumer choices.

Join the experience and discover new ways to conserve resources and preserve the world you live in. This experience will change your life and your relationship with the environment, so don't miss out on all the fun. For more information on EarthFair and eCommunity, please visit <http://www.earthdayweb.org/ecommunity.html> or call San Diego EarthWorks at (858) 272-7370. To schedule an interview, call Ruby Alejandria at (619) 232-2112 or email RubyA@CollabortiveServices.biz.

The 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.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.