



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **San Diego Botanic Garden Plants 100 Rare and Native Oak Trees with Students from Ocean Knoll Elementary in Encinitas**

*Tree plantings mark the latest milestone as part of a three-year restoration project to enhance and improve Ocean Knoll Canyon*

**Encinitas, Calif. (Jan. 2023)** – As part of the Ocean Knoll Oak Restoration Planting Project, [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) invited more than 300 Ocean Knoll Elementary students to help plant 100 native oak trees throughout Ocean Knoll Canyon in Encinitas. Made possible by an [Environmental Champions Grant from San Diego Gas & Electric \(SDG&E\)](#), the project's tree plantings took place over three days from December 13-15, with members of the SDBG Science & Conservation and Education teams engaging students in discussions about the importance of native plants and habitat restoration.

Since 2021, SDBG Science & Conservation staff and volunteers have been working to enhance and restore more than half of the canyon as part of a larger [Cottonwood Creek Watershed Riparian Enhancement Project](#) at Ocean Knoll Canyon, located adjacent to the elementary school. An important section of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed, SDBG received funding from a variety of partners including California Coastal Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and SDG&E to improve 4.6 acres of the habitat, which is an essential ecosystem for native coastal plants and animals. Since the project launch, more than 100 cubic yards of invasive plant material have been removed, with propagation of native plants using seeds and cuttings from SDBG underway.

The tree plantings mark the first time that students from the elementary school have been engaged for plantings.

"Our favorite things in the world are conserving San Diego plants and educating people about plants and horticulture," said San Diego Botanic Garden President & CEO Ari Novy. "This project allows us to do both at the same time with students, teachers and environmental leaders working shoulder to shoulder planting our native plants to grow a better future."

In addition to students, a number of professionals involved in the preservation of rare oak species from around the region also helped with tree plantings, including representatives from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Global Conservation



Consortium for Oak, Wildlife Alliance, The Wildlands Conservancy, Oak Glen Preserve and The Morton Arboretum in Chicago. San Diego Zoo

For more information about Science & Conservation projects at SDBG, along with a schedule of current and upcoming educational programs, please visit [www.sdbg.org](http://www.sdbg.org).

### **About San Diego Botanic Garden**

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden's four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. SDBG is home to three children's gardens, including the largest kids' garden on the West Coast. Learn more at [sdbg.org](http://sdbg.org). | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SDBotanicGarden) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegobotanicgarden) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](https://twitter.com/SDBGarden) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.tiktok.com/@sandiegobotanicgarden)

### **About California Coastal Conservancy**

The Coastal Conservancy is a California state agency, established in 1976, to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, to help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and to sustain local economies along California's coast. It acts with others to protect and restore, and increase public access to, California's coast, ocean, coastal watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Its vision is of a beautiful, restored, and accessible coast for current and future generations of Californians.

### **San Diego Gas & Electric**

SDG&E is an innovative San Diego-based energy company that provides clean, safe and reliable energy to better the lives of the people it serves in San Diego and southern Orange counties. The company is committed to creating a sustainable future by providing its electricity from renewable sources; modernizing natural gas pipelines; accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles; supporting numerous non-profit partners; and, investing in innovative technologies to ensure the reliable operation of the region's infrastructure for generations to come. SDG&E is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE). For more information, visit [SDGNews.com](http://SDGNews.com) or connect with SDG&E on Twitter ([@SDGE](https://twitter.com/SDGE)), Instagram ([@SDGE](https://www.instagram.com/SDGE)) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SDGE).



### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Since its inception in 1935, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a Federal agency under the US Department of Agriculture, has worked in partnership with private landowners and a variety of local, state, and federal conservation partners to deliver conservation based on specific, local needs. Please visit [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information about NRCS.

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