



News Release

Port Named Outstanding Community Partner by Rancho Los Cerritos

Honor Follows \$400,000 Grant to Fund Native Garden

April 9, 2013



The Port has been named the 2013 Outstanding Community Partner by Rancho Los Cerritos after it awarded the historic site a \$400,000 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction grant to fund the installation of a new California Native Garden.

Rancho Los Cerritos will honor the Port at its "Spring Luncheon to Celebrate the Gardens" on Thursday, April 11.

The California Native Garden is scheduled to break ground in July and be completed by November 2013. Native plants will be planted in late fall, after the summer heat subsides.

"We are really excited to be partnering with the Port of Long Beach on this site," said Kevin Kayse, chairman of the Los Cerritos Foundation. "It's a great match for the Port's mitigation program, as the garden will expand native habitat encouraging birds, butterflies and other critters; reduce water usage and improve drainage; and open up more of the property for passive recreational use."

By removing irrigated lawn and replacing it with draught-tolerant, California native plants, the Rancho will be reducing greenhouse gas emissions from water use, as well as lowering its operating costs.

The garden is among 28 projects awarded a total of \$5.4 million by the Port in 2012 to reduce, avoid, or capture emissions of greenhouse gases. Other projects include solar electricity at Long Beach Rescue Mission, boiler replacement at St. Mary Medical Center and a solar lighting tower for Long Beach Search & Rescue.

Funds for the grants are generated through Port construction projects such as the Middle Harbor Redevelopment and Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement. In addition to the greenhouse gas grants, the Port has awarded \$5 million in mitigation funding to health care and senior facilities, and \$4.7 million to schools and related sites.

An additional \$2.6 million is now available in a new round of health and school grants.

The Port's Community Mitigation Grant Programs are designed to offset some of the negative impacts of development and port operations that cannot be completely eliminated through technology. For more information, visit www.polb.com/grants.

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