



PRESS RELEASE



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**Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD)
re-introduces native vegetation at Prima Deshecha Landfill**

March 14, 2008 San Clemente, California -- Habitat restoration activities at the Prima Deshecha Landfill are now underway along the southern perimeter of the landfill, which is adjacent to the communities of Talega and Forster Ranch. The clearing of non-native vegetation may be visible to residents of these neighborhoods. Also noticeable, as a result of the habitat restoration, is the difference between the green, weed-covered hillsides and the treated, brown areas. This condition is temporary, and will begin to change when seeding and planting takes place this fall.

As part of IWMD's environmental mitigation programs, contractors have been at work clearing non-native vegetation across a designated open space area near Talega known as Segunda Deshecha Canada, in preparation for the restoration of native plant communities. Restoration activities are also ongoing at the southwest end of the

property, an area near the community of Forster Ranch. The clearing of vegetation in these areas also involves weed control treatment.

Habitat restoration work at the landfill began in late summer of 2007 with the clearing of non-native vegetation that had traditionally dominated much of the land that surrounds the landfill and its neighboring communities. Once the native vegetation is re-established, the area may eventually become home to several threatened animal species, such as the least Bell's vireo and the California gnatcatcher, among many others.

IWMD has set aside 225 acres at the Prima Deshecha landfill for habitat restoration. As a steward of Orange County's regional landfill system, IWMD is restoring native habitat at all three of the County's landfills.

The Orange County Integrated Waste Management Department operates the County's three active landfills and manages other solid waste activities for the County including four regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. For more information about the activities at the Prima Deshecha Landfill call the IWMD Office of Public Communications at: (714) 834-4176 or visit the Web site: www.oilandfills.com.

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