



Immediate Release

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Grand Opening of the new Nature Education Center at White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro, California

May 18, 2010: The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks are pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the White Point Nature Education Center in San Pedro on Saturday, May 22nd from 10am to 12:00 noon at 1600 Paseo del Mar in San Pedro. The free public opening is an opportunity to view the new White Point Nature Education Center and enjoy a family celebration with nature hikes, tours of the native plant demonstration garden, a kid's treasure hunt, and many other fun activities.

The new Center is located in the beautifully restored 102-acre White Point Nature Preserve overlooking the scenic Pacific coastline. The Preserve is owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and managed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. The Center will serve as a resource for students, families and community groups from all over Los Angeles. It is housed in a creatively re-purposed former military structure surrounded by a native plant demonstration garden. The demonstration garden was made possible with the support of the Major Family Foundation.

Inside the Center, multi-media exhibits will move visitors through a timeline of sequentially arranged exhibits and displays that tell the story of White Point's cultural and natural history, spanning the Pleistocene age through the present. The exhibits were made possible because of a generous contribution from the Alcoa Foundation who teamed with the Torrance, California based Alcoa Fastening Systems division to support this venture.

"Today's grand opening is exciting for the community and also meaningful for Alcoa as we mark our productive five-year partnership with Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy," said Paula Davis, President, Alcoa Foundation. "Through the Conservancy's Research, Education, and Community Involvement Program (RECIPE), students now will have access to new and unique

learning opportunities and interactive exhibits that draw upon the natural environment of this beautiful Preserve. We are proud to support this important endeavor and celebrate the wonderful team that has brought it to life.”

Noted muralist Robert Reid from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has created a mural in consultation with paleontologists, paleobotanists and entomologists accurately depicting White Point during the last ice age. Materials in the Center’s interior are built out of sustainable products including 100% recycled curbside glass, low carbon concrete counters and natural bamboo cabinets built by certified green building specialist, Tom Reavey. “The creation of this nature education center is the result of a truly collaborative effort between government agencies, corporations, foundations and individuals working together” said Andrea Vona, Executive Director of the PVPLC, “We are so grateful for their support in helping us to meet the community’s needs, especially in these uncertain economic times.”

The Nature Center will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. The PVPLC will also use the facility for scheduled class visits during the week. Community groups interested in the use of the facility may make a reservation through the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving land and restoring habitat for the enjoyment and education of all. For more information visit: www.pvplc.org



The Demonstration Garden features four thematic areas drawn from local Tongva Native-American cultural heritage with pathways radiating outward to 3.7 miles of hiking trails.



The Center’s exhibits bring the full circle story of White Point to life through dynamic visuals and interactive displays.