



City of El Centro
1275 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA. 92243

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

El Centro Arbor Day Kick-Off Event

El Centro, CA – April 4, 2019 – The City of El Centro is thrilled to announce a celebratory kick-off event to honor the first Urban Forestry program in the desert region: Imperial Valley Urban Forest. In partnership with CAL Fire and the Friends of El Centro Community Services Foundation, the Imperial Valley Urban Forest is comprised of three separate CAL Fire Grants totaling \$2,651,683: Imperial Valley Urban Forest, El Centro Free Tree Program and Imperial Valley Urban Forest Inventory Program. Together, the grants will summate to 3,000 planted trees across the County over the next three years. As the leading entity, the City of El Centro aims to set the precedence for Urban Forestry practices in the region.

On Saturday, April 20, 2019, the City of El Centro will hold a tree-planting event to celebrate Arbor Day, kick-off the Imperial Valley Urban Forest Program, and honor the City's newest park funded by Measure P Funds. The new 3.1 acre park will include an inclusive playground, covered shade structures, walking paths, park benches and tables, generous landscaping, lighting, and a parking lot.

The event will take place in the 1900 block of North Waterman Avenue, South of El Centro Fire Station No. 3. Beginning at 10:00 am, the morning will start with a tree planting demonstration followed by a mass tree planting on location. In addition, the City of El Centro will hold a series of educational tree trainings as part of the Imperial Valley Tree Steward certificate program. Community members interested in becoming Tree Stewards will receive a free certificate training program and the opportunity for a stipend position. All community members are welcome and encouraged to participate. We also encourage residents to attend the event and give us feedback on the proposed new park.

For more information, please reach out to Program Director Kalli Legakes at kalli@legakes.com or 760-791-8732.

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