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South Coast AQMD Launches New Partnership with Habitat for Humanity International

DIAMOND BAR – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) recently launched a new employee volunteer program, Working with Communities, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The partnership aims to bring together community partners and agency personnel to participate in Habitat-related events throughout the year, including installing climate-resilient and energy-efficient home improvements and, in some cases, new construction in Southern California communities. This partnership was created through a \$90,000 grant from South Coast AQMD to Habitat for Humanity International.

The program is part of the agency's commitment to support reliable, clean energy that will reduce costs, improve air quality and make a difference in environmental justice communities. Homes constructed through this partnership will be equipped with environmentally safe and compliant products, insulation, solar panels and other sustainable features.

"South Coast AQMD is deeply committed to the well-being of our communities, particularly those that have been historically underserved," said Ben J. Benoit, Chair of South Coast AQMD's Governing Board. "We are excited to begin this partnership with Habitat for Humanity, where we can continue our commitment to environmental justice through these acts of service."

"Habitat LA is so grateful to work with partners such as South Coast AQMD who are as equally invested in the community as we are. Their push for sustainability and collaboration aligns with Habitat's mission to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope," said Alexandria Marrow, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles.

The first two events were held in partnership with Habitat for Humanity San Bernardino Area and Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles. Volunteers with Habitat San Bernardino Area gathered in Highland to spruce up the exterior of a home with a fresh coat of low-VOC compliant paint. In Los Angeles, volunteers gathered to help build one of eight new homes in the Isabella Villas neighborhood on El Segundo Blvd. Volunteers worked to build new homes on land that Los Angeles County helped purchase. The homes will have drought tolerant yards, energy efficient heating systems, insulation made of recycled content, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and solar energy systems installed.

More events will be scheduled with other Habitat for Humanity affiliates in March and throughout the calendar year.

For more information on the program and future events, please visit: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-events</u>.



South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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