



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

CONTACT:
REGINALD DURANT, DIRECTOR OF RESTORATION
BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION
(949) 335-8655

BACK TO NATIVES DESIGNS NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE FOR COSTA MESA GREEN HOME

Community members will help install landscape at home designed to be the first platinum LEED residential building in Orange County.

COSTA MESA, Calif., August 19, 2009 – **Back to Natives Restoration**, a 501 (c)(3) non profit public charity is providing landscape design services for the “Costa Mesa Green Home,” which many believe will be the greenest home in Orange County, California when certified ‘Platinum’ by the US Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) for Homes Program.

Members of the community are invited to a Native Plant Landscaping Workshop, to learn how and why planting native plants is beneficial. During the workshop, participants will assist in installing the design. The first workshop will be held on August 29th, from 9AM to 1PM. To RSVP, call 949-509-4787 or send an email to info@backtonatives.org.

The landscape will consist of drought-tolerant locally native plants in mulched beds, with no water hungry turf grass. Native vegetation requires less water and maintenance, and no fertilizer or pesticides. Many native butterfly and bird species are dependent on the habitat provided by native vegetation. The Green Home’s landscaping will restore some of the area’s natural biodiversity, and enhance the wildlife population.

The USGBC’s LEED program rates residential projects on a point scale for different aspects of environmental design resulting in the certification levels of Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Steven Blanchard, owner of the Green Home, is looking forward to his family home becoming a showcase of green building ideas to influence possible future projects.

Back to Natives strives to involve the community in the process of ecological restoration and conservation because we believe that a little "ecological enlightenment" and a chance to "get your hands dirty" is the best way to improve relations between people and nature. Back to Natives uses profits from designing locally native plant landscapes to fund service learning and environmental education programs.

The Costa Mesa Green Home’s landscape design will be installed by community members during neighborhood workshops held to teach participants how and why planting native plants is beneficial. During these workshops, participants will assist in installing most if not all of the design. The first workshop will be held on August 29th, from 9AM to 1PM. To RSVP, call 949-509-4787 or send an email to info@backtonatives.org.

About Back to Natives

Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Orange County and California wildlands, through education and restoration programs featuring native plants as a centralizing theme. For more information, please visit www.backtonatives.org or call 949-509-4787.

About the Costa Mesa Green Home

The “Costa Mesa Green Home” is owned by real estate developer Steven Blanchard, designed by Architect, David Gangloff of Ladera Ranch and is being built by Gonterman Construction Corporation of Huntington Beach. The home is on track to become the first LEED Platinum residential building in Orange County, pending approval from the U.S. Green Building Council. For more information, please visit www.costamesagreen.com.

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