



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students, Teachers and Water Providers Celebrate Opening of New School Garden

MONTCLAIR, CA Monte Vista Elementary School students had the opportunity to cultivate a curriculum-based school garden thanks to a water-wise “Garden in Every School” program sponsored by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Monte Vista Water District.

“The purpose of the Garden in Every School program is to educate the school family and community about wise-water usage through a garden landscape, featuring drought-tolerant plants and efficient irrigation methods,” said Agency Board President Terry Catlin. “The grant to Monte Vista Elementary is valued at more than \$4,500 in materials, including plants, soil, bark, irrigation supplies, garden tools and curriculum materials,” continued Catlin.

The garden offers curriculum connections aligned with the state standards celebrating California’s multicultural diversity by incorporating plants used for food, fiber, shelter, medicinal, and other purposes by indigenous people of California and those who have made the state their home.

“A school garden is a wonderful teaching tool – it brings science, math, nature and art to life, and it gets children excited about learning,” said District Board President Sandra Rose.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 30th, to celebrate the completion of the garden. Principal Sultana Dixon and teachers Kimberly Martindale and Kay Hoover thanked the water providers for the grant and showed samples of the produce already grown in the garden. Ontario Montclair School District Trustee Kristen Brake and Monte Vista Elementary Student Council President David Miranda oversaw the cutting of the ribbon.

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Pictured from left to right: Inland Empire Utilities Agency Board President Terry Catlin, Student Council President David Miranda, School Principal Sultana Dixon, Ontario Montclair School District Trustee Kristen Brake, Monte Vista Water District Board President Sandra Rose, and Elementary Administrator Joylynn Peralta.

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The Inland Empire Utilities Agency, formed in 1950, distributes wholesale imported water and provides wastewater collection and treatment services for a 242-square-mile area and a population of approximately 850,000 in western San Bernardino County.

The Monte Vista Water District, formed in 1927, provides retail and wholesale water services to a population of over 130,000 in the communities of Montclair, Chino Hills, and portions of Chino.