



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FRUIT TREE GIVEAWAY FESTIVAL:**

**300 Free Fruit Trees to Be Distributed at the Pacoima Wash Natural Park in San Fernando**

*SATURDAY, January 20, 2018; 10am-1pm*

San Fernando, Calif. (January 16, 2018) -- On Saturday, January 20, TreePeople will distribute 300 fruit trees to 300 families in the City of San Fernando.

TreePeople has organized the festival in partnership with the City of San Fernando and with the generous support from major donor, Judith R. Nelson.

All participants will take a free workshop on how to plant and care for their trees facilitated by TreePeople so the trees have the best chance of getting established and to thrive.

"This is a concrete way to connect with the community that celebrates the diversity of the neighborhood. We are grateful to the city for allowing TreePeople to host this festival at this very special place by the Pacoima Wash," TreePeople Regional Forestry Manager, Pam Gibson said.

The park diverts stormwater runoff from a 33-acre area, replenishing the San Fernando aquifer.

"Pacoima Wash Natural Park is the model of how to bring nature into neighborhoods and clean and conserve water at the same time," Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), said in a statement.

The Fruit Tree Giveaway Festival is designed to offer San Fernando Valley residents the opportunity to grow their own healthy food in an area traditionally known for its food deserts to provide a public health benefit for the community. Planted trees will also help cool the city by shading streets and homes, protect people from flooding and clean the air. San Fernando is one of Los Angeles' most heat-impacted communities where residents suffer from low canopy coverage, poor air quality and flood risks.

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### **About TreePeople**

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people and nature-based solutions to grow a healthy, green city in the face of climate change's increasing impacts. The organization inspires, engages and supports people to take responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in volunteers, students and communities. Together, we are growing a greener, shadier, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org).