



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contact

Gerald Arreglado, TreePeople  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
[garreglado@treepeople.org](mailto:garreglado@treepeople.org)  
213-359-9084

## So It Rained in L.A. Now What?!

*TreePeople in partnership with nonprofits will educate and empower a community about smart water resource management at the WaterTalks Kick-off Event.*

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 24, 2019 – Since March of this year, Los Angeles, California has already seen more rain in 2019 than all of 2018. The recent rain storms provides the perfect opportunity to kick-off **WaterTalks** – a public program designed to generate and increase community involvement in planning a sustainable water future for California. Its goal is to explore the strengths and opportunities of 107 communities in the Greater Los Angeles County area facing ongoing economic and environmental distress, involve local communities, and gather ideas to prioritize and recommend water-related projects based on issues of greatest concern.

Funded by the California Department of Water Resources through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, WaterTalks is an outcome of the 2014 “The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act” – Proposition 1 – to meet the State’s long-term water needs. This voter-approved measure will allow funding for an array of sustainable water-related projects, including water reliability and protection, public water system improvements, water recycling, wastewater treatment, drought relief, emergency water supply management, and watershed protection.

Therefore, WaterTalks aims to ensure that regional water resource management includes community voices and ideas regarding the health, safety, welfare, and resiliency of lower-income neighborhoods. To do so, **TreePeople is hosting a WaterTalks community kick-off event in Huntington Park, CA on Saturday, April 27, 9 AM to 12 PM at Chelsea Park, 6531 Albany St, Huntington Park, CA 90255.**

Join local residents attending this event and get involved in water-related issues, provide crucial input regarding the community's water needs, and learn about the State's most current water related topics. These include drinking water, water conservation, flood management, drainage, access to parks and recreation, and the overall health of our watersheds.

In addition, TreePeople is working to green a 3-square mile area within the communities of Huntington Park and Cudahy. The project is currently planting 1,400 more trees along city streets over the course of three years to improve community health by mitigating extreme pollution and poor air quality to improve lives. The goal is to increase overall tree canopy from 15.5% to 17%, and provide ongoing care for the trees for up to five years to shade sidewalks, improve public health and to build community.

“We are overhauling the way we think about infrastructure and public health given our new climate reality. Planting trees, protecting our groundwater, and educating and empowering communities needs to be central for economic revitalization and long-term resilience of our city,” explained Cindy Montanez, TreePeople CEO

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#### ABOUT TREEPEOPLE

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow more climate-resilient and water-secure communities as the region faces extreme weather, historic drought and a hotter, drier future. The organization inspires, engages, and supports people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among public agencies and business, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, youth and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations.

#### ABOUT INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. This approach delivers higher value for investments by considering all interests, providing multiple benefits, and working across jurisdictional boundaries. Examples of multiple benefits include improved water quality, better flood management, restored and enhanced ecosystems, and more reliable surface and groundwater supplies.