



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT: CARYN BOSSON
(805) 798-1226
www.treepeople.org/drought-response**

TREEPEOPLE OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today Governor Brown declared California to be in a drought emergency. TreePeople, a Los Angeles based non-profit with a four-decade history offers practical ways for every Angeleno to keep our city safe and healthy in even the most extreme dry weather. By taking these actions, residents will move the city towards a viable future – even in the face of what are projected to be hotter and more erratic weather patterns.

The answer, TreePeople says, lies in taking care of what the organization calls the most vital resource for environmental well-being in urban areas: trees. Even though many trees will need supplemental water to get them through the drought, trees are key to a sufficient local water supply in Los Angeles.

When it does rain, a mature tree can capture thousands of gallons of rainwater in its canopy and root zone, sinking that rain into the aquifer instead of allowing it to run off into storm drains and the ocean. This is especially important for the city of Los Angeles, which imports nearly 90% of its water supply from distant and threatened sources. When it doesn't rain, the shade that trees provide keeps the land from baking dry. Shaded landscapes retain soil moisture and keep the city cool. Ample tree canopy can cool urban land by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit

"With the lack of rainfall, the billions of dollars that Los Angeles has invested in urban tree canopy could be lost, leaving us much more vulnerable to continuing heat and drought" says TreePeople Founder and President, Andy Lipkis. The organization provides numerous resources and volunteer opportunities for Angelenos to participate in planting, caring for trees and creating healthy, water-conserving landscapes citywide.

TreePeople is working with state and local water and resource agencies to coordinate actions that work with nature as the basis for a more climate resilient city. It is particularly focused on bringing solutions to Los Angeles that have been applied in Australian cities to help them successfully weather a recent 12-year-long drought. (more)

"TreePeople has always supported people to be active managers of the urban water supply," says Lipkis. "We provide tools that enable people to take effective action in their neighborhood. Our website has an array of resources for Do-It-Yourself, as well as opportunities to get involved in TreePeople's programs and events."

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS ON RAINWATER HARVESTING, NATIVE PLANTS, CITIZEN FORESTRY

On **Saturday, February 1st**, TreePeople is offering its next round of free, quarterly, workshops on creating a more drought-tolerant and vibrant urban landscape. Taking place at TreePeople Center for Community Forestry, morning workshops cover: (1) Rainwater Harvesting, (2) California Native Plants and (3) Citizen Forestry.

For more information and to register visit <http://www.treepeople.org/community-sustainability-workshops>

About TreePeople:

TreePeople's work is about uniting the power of people, trees and nature-based solutions to grow a sustainable future for Los Angeles. Our goal is to create abundant tree canopy and ample local water supply in even the most over-paved parts of our city. We bring communities together to restore the natural watershed, and in so doing help nature heal our city.

TreePeople was born from the efforts a teenager over 40 years ago. Since then, more than two million people of all ages have joined in the positive work of reclaiming a healthy environment across Los Angeles. Together, we're making a difference in our homes, our schools, our neighborhoods and in the local mountains. As we build volunteer leaders in our communities, we also advocate at the highest levels of government for policies that make a significant difference to our ecosystem, communities and economy.

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