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WATTS RISING: \$35 MILLION AWARDED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

TreePeople and Watts Rising Collaborative partners to reduce pollution, plant trees and co-create equitable access to green spaces, cleaner transportation and sustainable housing

WATTS (February, 1 2018) -- Today, Mayor Eric Garcetti and hundreds of community members held a press conference celebrating a historic award of \$35 million to the Watts Rising Collaborative for pollution reduction and climate-resilient community environmental and housing projects. Led by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), the 3-year transformative project will improve the lives of thousands of residents impacted by pollution while dramatically reducing dangerous greenhouse gases (GHGs) in this urban neighborhood.

The project, funded by Cap-and-Trade funds from California's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program, are overseen by the State's Strategic Growth Council with the goal to support climate-resilient, replicable models of revitalized communities.

A total of 25 strategic projects, all chosen by Watts community members, will ensure long-lasting benefits to public health, the environment and the economy. Some initiatives include: redeveloping dilapidated units in Jordan Downs public housing development, opening 118,000 sq.ft. of new commercial space, offering electric vehicle car sharing and electric shuttle buses, the launch of a food waste prevention program to divert 300 tons from landfills, and much more.

As a lead partner, TreePeople will play a leadership role supporting the implementation of all Urban Greening projects including but not limited to:

- Planting 4,200 trees, increasing canopy by 42%, of which TreePeople will plant 850
- Shading a section of the Compton Creek, removing 4,000 sq.ft. of concrete and planting trees
- Removing 10,00 sq. ft. of asphalt, replacing it with cool paving and tree canopy to protect kids from heat on schoolyards and other greening projects at: 96th Street Elementary, Weigand Street Elementary, Ritter Street Elementary and Grape Street Elementary

This historic investment in Watts, coming 53 long years after the Watts riots in which an estimated \$40 Million of damages were sustained, will invite deep public engagement, calling on hundreds of volunteers to work with nonprofits like TreePeople to create lasting change in one of California's most disadvantaged communities.

"Watts deserves justice after years of inequity and pollution. TreePeople's vision is to train and engage hundreds of people to transform neglected streets, parks, schools and the railway filled with hard edges of concrete, steel, and glass to green spaces softened with the cooling shade of trees to improve public safety and community health," TreePeople CEO, Cindy Montañez said.

HACLA's Watts Rising members include: TreePeople, Green Commuter, Restore Neighborhoods Los Angeles, Grant Housing and Economic Development Corporation, Community Healing Gardens, LAUSD, From Lot to Spot, Los Angeles Unified School District, TreePeople, Michaels Development Company, LA Cleantech Incubator, Bridge Housing Corporation, Watts Labor Community Action Committee, North East Trees, the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Street Services and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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About TreePeople

TreePeople unites people and government around the power of trees and nature-based solutions to grow a healthy, green city in the face of climate change's increasing impacts. Together, we grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit treepeople.org.