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News Release

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New Mojave Garden Planned At Fullerton Arboretum

(Fullerton, CA) – The Fullerton Arboretum is pleased to announce work has begun on the development of a new Mojave garden display, which is anticipated to be unveiled to the general public later **this summer**. The goal is to develop a portion of the Arboretum's undeveloped desert area for this Mojave garden display. The Mojave garden is one of the largest bioregions in California and home to a diverse interesting flora and spectacular geologic landscape.

The Arboretum is designing a Mojave garden collection that will reflect different characters of this bioregion from plants that inhabit a variety of communities. Our goal is to design a landscape that reflects the geology of the region so that visitors to the Arboretum can increase their knowledge of garden design with water conservation in mind.

The Mojave Desert covers about two-thirds of the northern California desert province area and is defined by hot dry summers and cool wet winters. The Mojave is bounded by both the Sonoran and Colorado Desert regions. Some of the plants used in this garden will

reflect the interesting flora found where these California desert regions intersect. Plants selected for this garden will seek to show off the diversity of plant forms found within this region to create a garden of interest and beauty.

Hardscape is a very important function for designing a garden whether it is a Coastal Bluff created in an island garden or the raked sand in a Zen garden. Hardscape will be created using large granite boulders that are set to look like they are slowly eroding from the desert floor. The Mojave garden hardscape will be the backbone of this garden. Along with telling an interesting geologic story, the boulders will add a perennial focal point to the garden, a place for people to sit while enjoying the plants and most important, create great spots for planting many of the interesting desert plants that are often looking for a bit of shade to put down their roots.

Perennial shrubs such as encelia, creosote, sage and blackbrush are a few plants that will be in this garden which are familiar to travelers within the desert. These shrubs will be complimented by the architectural interest found in the various species of cactus and yucca found throughout the Mojave. Annual plant displays will be sown each winter which will be another interest that will carry the beauty of this garden throughout the calendar year. More than 1,400 species of plants are found in the Mojave Desert and 40 of those species are found nowhere else. This is the greatest floristic diversity found within any of the California Desert regions. With the high diversity of plants found in this desert, we will have a lot of opportunities to build our plant collections and display the beauty of this region while teaching about the incredibly rich plant diversity of the Mojave Desert.

To date, we have completed Phase I of the Mojave Garden display which includes boulder acquisition, transport and placement; path development and final grading. This is the most important part of the project as it will be the backbone of the garden. Phase II of the project includes purchasing plants and seeds; this will include the acquisition of mature specimens of cactus, yucca and ocotillo to get a good start at a mature look to the garden. Formal introduction of the finished Mojave Garden is planned for approximately XXXXX.

The Fullerton Arboretum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Check our website at www.fullertonarboretum.org for more information or call (714) 278-3407.

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