

**PRESS RELEASE: October 16, 2015**



## **San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY** *Connecting communities. Protecting nature.*

### **Native Nursery Ribbon-Cutting at San Elijo Lagoon**

Conservancy Launches Initiative to Source Native Plants at Donor Ceremony October 21

SOLANA BEACH—It's getting more native at San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy announces a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize investors who have helped to launch the San Elijo Nursery. This new, native plant nursery is a low-impact workspace for propagating plants uniquely native to the reserve, while supporting the agricultural legacy of this coastal community toward a sustainable future. Donors who provided seed funding will be recognized at the nursery, located near Santa Inez trailhead, on Wednesday, October 21, from 4-6 p.m.

"I am excited to announce the opening of the San Elijo Nursery," said Doug Gibson, conservancy executive director and principal scientist. "This donor-sponsored resource allows us to strategically grow local plant species for our habitat restoration programs. And, it enables us to offer new opportunities for community members and school children who are interested in getting their hands dirty." By interacting, students and volunteers can further increase their appreciation of natural areas, the art and science of horticulture, and land stewardship.

The nursery is a partnership of San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and County of San Diego Department of Parks & Recreation, and is made possible through the support of the John & Elizabeth Leonard Family Foundation, Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club, Oakhurst Builders, and Ned & DeeDee Reynolds. County-designated Neighborhood Reinvestment funds, directed by Supervisor Dave Roberts, have allowed for the purchase of essential equipment.

Many plants native to the reserve are not commercially available. Propagation efforts will be primarily focused on restoration of unique habitats, including coastal sage scrub, riparian, and Southern maritime chaparral. Collecting and propagating plants lowers the carbon footprint and will enable the re-vegetation of more acreage and enhancement of wildland habitat.

Event parking is along Santa Inez. At the Santa Inez trailhead turn left. The San Elijo Nursery is about 300-feet down the trail. Doug Gibson and Brian Albright, director of county parks, will present opening remarks at 4:30 p.m., followed by the ribbon cutting and tour of the nursery's features.

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*San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, founded in 1987, is the nonprofit land trust for the 979-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Its mission is to protect and restore the resources of the lagoon, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. The conservancy's website is [www.SanElijo.org](http://www.SanElijo.org) and phone is (760) 436-3944.*