

Watershed Restoration Project - 3/28/09

Kiwanis One Day Project

Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights

A caravan of 51 youth and adult volunteers from Newton and Orange Grove Builders Clubs, Los Altos High Kiwins, Baldwin Park Key Club and the Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights left the Los Altos High School campus at 7:15 am traveling up highway 39 to work on watershed restoration. We initially thought we'd spend the day planting trees. We were gathered together and given our instructions. We were told that our task of watershed restoration was to clean trash from along either the East or West forks of the San Gabriel River.

Before departing for our clean-up site there was a ceremony to honor retiring Forest Ranger Karen Fortes. She has been working on this watershed restoration program since it's inception in 1991. She was



presented with a plaque and a cast glass award resembling a large water drop by Al Contreras of the Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District. Later after lunch we shared her retirement cake.

We were assigned to clean up trash in the

water and shoreline of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. I only wish we knew the task today would be a trash pickup. I'd have brought our trash grabbers we use at our monthly Adopt a Highway Project from the Kiwanis storage unit.



Trash in the river before we picked it up.



At nearly 11:00 we ended our trash cleanup and returned to the volunteer parking lot of the San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Education Center. Charlie The members of the Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights cooked hot dogs and served chips and water to the volunteers we brought. Two 10 x 10 pop-ups were set up so everyone could rest and have lunch in the shade. After lunch most of the volunteers went across the street to the San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Education Center to plant trees. A group of 5 Kiwins back to the East fork of the San Gabriel River to

pick up more trash.

By the time the Kiwanians had cleaned up from cooking and put everything away, the volunteers at the San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Education Center were nearly done planting trees. We helped move the containers of trees to the nursery where they were watered.



Special thanks to the Rowland Heights Field Office of Supervisor Don Knabe for arranging for the bus that we used to transport many of the volunteers to and from the event. It was perfect weather for the event. Thanks to everyone that attended or in some other way helped to make this a successful day.

