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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Hydration Stations Installed at Three Escondido Elementary Schools



Left to Right: Dr. Luis Rankins-Ibara, EUSD Superintendent; David Drake, Rincon Water Board Member; Joan Gardner, EUSD Board Member; Tegan Butler, Bernardo Student Council President; Lisa Du Ket, Bernardo Principal; Erin Lump, Rincon Water Board Vice President; Greg Thomas, Rincon Water General Manager; and, Francis Spoonemore, EUSD Maintenance and Operations Director.

(Escondido) - In the last several years, water bottles have become commonplace on school campuses as students learned the importance water plays with maintaining good health. However, keeping those water bottles filled throughout the day has been tough, since traditional drinking fountains are not designed for this purpose. So, the Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District (Rincon Water) partnered with the Escondido Union School District to install water bottle refill stations, also known as hydration stations, at three Escondido elementary school campuses - Bernardo, Miller, and North Broadway. All three schools receive Rincon Water through their taps.

“With four stations at each school, students have easy access to fresh, cold water throughout the day,” said Greg Thomas, Rincon Water’s General Manager. “Beyond helping the kids stay healthy, the

hydrations stations also help the environment,” said Erin Lump, Rincon Water Board Member. “48 million water bottles end up in landfills, streets, parks, and waterways each day in the United States. The students are doing their part to help reduce pollution and trash in our community.”



To celebrate the new hydration stations installed at Bernardo Elementary School campus, the Escondido Union School District hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in late January. Dr. Luis Rankins-Ibara, the Superintendent of the School District thanked Rincon Water’s Board of Directors, General Manager, and staff for the donation of the hydration stations along with informational signage. Assistant Superintendent Michael Taylor also expressed his appreciation for Rincon Water’s dedicated participation with the School District, which ranges from in-class educational outreach, sponsored field trips, poster contests, and water quality testing.

“The hydration stations will help the school to conserve water,” said David Drake, Rincon Water Board Member. “It takes 1.9 gallons of water to make and fill an eight-ounce bottle of water. Each time a student refills his or her water bottle, 1.7 gallons of water are conserved.”

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Left: Michael Taylor, EUSD Assistant Superintendent, fills his refillable water bottle at one of the four newly installed hydration stations located on Bernardo Elementary School campus.

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Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District is an independent, special district dedicated to providing potable and recycled water to approximately 30,000 people in a 42-square-mile area that includes Escondido, San Marcos, San Diego, and other surrounding unincorporated areas through nearly 8,000 connections. The public is invited to Board meetings, which take place at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Rincon’s facilities located at 1920 North Iris Lane in Escondido.