



Friends of the  
Desert Mountains

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Granite Construction to partner with Friends of the Desert Mountains on Whitewater Preserve Trail Restoration Event**

Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson to attend in support of environmental conservation

**Palm Desert, Calif., (March 13, 2009)** – When it comes to environmental preservation and stewardship, it takes leadership, community activism and strong public-private partnerships. To illustrate that, Granite Construction will be collaborating with Coachella Valley nonprofit, Friends of the Desert Mountains, on Saturday, March 14, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., on a trail restoration project at the Whitewater Preserve.

The event, titled ‘Rock the Preserve,’ is designed to make a real difference, while promoting awareness and understanding of environmental conservation. It will include strategic trailhead restoration, trails and trail access clean-up, native seed plantings, and the re-building of a horse corral, among other activities. The event will take place in and around the Whitewater Preserve, located north of Palm Springs off Interstate 10.

Granite Construction is one of the lead corporate donors in Friends of the Desert Mountains ambitious ‘\$3 million-in-3-years’ fundraising campaign, launched last year and designed to raise funding for the land preservation and conservation organization.

“This is another way for us to illustrate our strong alliance with Friends of the Desert Mountains and its mission to protect and preserve the desert,” said Pat Kelly, Granite Construction’s Branch Manager. “With shovels in hand and community-giving in our hearts, we’re doing this because supporting worthy causes like Friends of the Desert Mountains is part of our company’s culture,” Kelly said.

Riverside County Supervisor, the Honorable Roy Wilson, will also attend, and is scheduled to make remarks at a noon barbeque. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors was also a lead partner in the Friends’ campaign, and worked to help Friends with numerous trail restoration projects throughout the Coachella Valley.

In addition to Supervisor Wilson, other public officials scheduled to attend include California State Assemblyman, Manuel Perez; Coachella Mayor, Eduardo Garcia; Palm Desert City Manager, John Wohlmuth; and Desert District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, Steve Borchard, among others.

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Let’s be Friends.

In addition to representatives from Granite Construction, other corporate partner representatives will also participate in the trail clean-up, including Dr. Jack Sahl, Director, Environmental and Resource Sustainability at Southern California Edison. Last year, SCE awarded the organization a \$250,000 grant to fund energy efficient upgrades at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and to provide funding for youth education and community outreach programs.

“This is another important way for us to illustrate the work we do all year long to protect the environment, promote conservation and build strong alliances with our sponsors, donors and partner organizations,” said Buford Crites, Friends’ board member. “It’s another way we can connect to make a real difference,” he said.

#### **About Friends of the Desert Mountains**

Friends of the Desert Mountains is a nonprofit organization formed in 1987 by concerned citizens dedicated to protecting the magnificent mountains, scenic vistas, recreation trails and natural open spaces that make up the Coachella Valley. Its mission is to secure, acquire and preserve lands in the Coachella Valley and the surrounding mountains, and to support education, conservation and research in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. To date, Friends of the Desert Mountains has assisted in preserving more than 35,000 acres of land throughout the Coachella Valley. For more information, visit [www.desertmountains.org](http://www.desertmountains.org).

#### **About Granite Construction Incorporated**

Granite Construction Incorporated is a member of the S&P Midcap Index, the Domini 400 Social Index and the Russell 2000. Granite Construction Company, a wholly owned subsidiary, is one of the nation’s largest diversified heavy civil contractors and construction materials producers. Granite Construction Company serves public and private sector clients through its offices nationwide. For more information about Granite, visit [www.granitconstruction.com](http://www.granitconstruction.com).

#### **About The Wildlands Conservancy and Whitewater Preserve**

The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) has preserved more land in California than any other conservation organization and owns the largest nonprofit preserve system in California.

The Whitewater Preserve is 2,851 acres surrounded by the Bureau of Land Management San Geronio Wilderness. It includes 1,280 acres subdivided into 40-acre parcels that were being aggressively marketed at the time of the Conservancy’s purchase. The Preserve also includes the 291-acre former Whitewater Trout Farm that was purchased at a substantial discount through a partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. This scenic 291 acres lies at the end of Whitewater Canyon Road, north of Palm Springs off Interstate 10, and is an important portal into the San Geronio Wilderness and preserve lands.

For more information, visit [www.wildlandsconservancy.org](http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org).

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