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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA TO PLANT TREES IN HONOR OF FALLEN SEPTEMBER 11TH FIRE FIGHTERS

Trees to count as part of Million Trees LA program

LOS ANGELES (July 19, 2006)---The Department of Public Works will join Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, City Councilmembers Wendy Greuel (2nd District), Tony Cardenas (6th District), and Tom LaBonge (4th District) at a tree planting ceremony at Fire Station No. 77 on July 20. The officials, along with the Los Angeles Fire Department Chief William Bamattre, and Paula A. Daniels, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, are planting 19 trees in honor of firefighters whose lives were lost during the September 11, 2001 attacks. The tree planting ceremony, one of many initiated by the Hollywood Beautification Team (HBT) under the "United We Plant" commemorative tree planting program for fallen 9/11 fire fighters, will be held at noon at the facility on 9224 Sunland Blvd.

At the event, the Mayor will also introduce the www.milliontreesla.org, the official website of Million Trees LA – his plan to plant one million trees all over Los Angeles. The webpage offers information on the Mayor's citywide greening initiative, and serves as a tool for residents of Los Angeles to report a tree planting contribution to the one million-tree goal. The Mayor will demonstrate this online reporting feature after planting the trees at the fire station.

"On behalf of Million Trees LA, we are grateful for this contribution of the Los Angeles Fire Department in support of the Mayor's Million Trees initiative," said Commissioner Daniels who is leading the Mayor's initiative. "We are deeply moved by the symbolic nature of this contribution, and the legacy that the trees will provide in honor of the heroes of September 11."

Daniels adds, "The Million Trees LA program will be officially launched in the fall of this year, but the trees planted today will be recorded in our tree count through the Million Trees LA website, at www.milliontreesla.org. Anyone wanting to plant a tree in the city in memory of someone, or wanting to contribute to the Million Trees LA effort, may use the website to have their tree count. "

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For more information about the Fire Station No. 77 tree planting, call the Los Angeles Fire Department at (213) 978-3826. To learn more about Million Trees LA, visit www.milliontreesla.org or contact the Department of Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333.

The Million Trees LA is a project of Mayor Villaraigosa, and will be administered with the leadership of the Department of Public Works. As Los Angeles' third largest municipal division, the department is managed by the five-commissioner Board of Public Works. The Department of Public Works oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like street tree planting and maintenance, recycling and solid waste management.

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