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BACK TO NATIVES RECEIVES \$1276 DONATION FROM CH2M HILL

IRVINE, Calif., December 11, 2012 – **Back to Natives Restoration**, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public charity has received a \$1276 donation from CH2M HILL’s Southern California Green Team as part of their annual fundraising for local conservation organizations. Back to Natives (BTN) was chosen because of the organizations focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The donation will help fund a greenhouse expansion project at Back to Native’s Nursery at Santiago Park in Santa Ana.

“We are confident that the facility will serve as a source of curiosity and inspiration for the next generation of biologists, conservationists, and environmental scientists,” said Ben Kerridge, CH2M HILL Southern California Officer Green Team Chairperson.

The Back to Natives Nursery at Santiago Park is home to some of the organizations most successful programs, including the USFS Restoration Training Class, the BTN Internship Program, and several environmental education classes (native plant propagation, etc.). Since groundbreaking over 200 volunteers have put in over 2000 hours in Service Learning programs at the Nursery.

While there are many internship programs out there, there are none that provide students with the opportunity to design, install and maintain *locally native* plant (drought tolerant) landscapes – a field that is growing by leaps and bounds as California’s water becomes more and more scarce, and as the public becomes more and more concerned about providing habitat for animals and reducing their exposure to chemicals in their gardens.

BTN educates students and interns for future careers in the “green collar” field. Each year BTN staff gives classes in landscape design, rainwater harvesting, square foot gardening and permaculture. Native Plant Landscaping Workshops invite community members to learn about removing their lawns and planting native landscapes.

About Back to Natives

Back to Natives Restoration, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Orange County and California wild lands, through education and restoration programs featuring native plants as a centralizing theme. For more information, please visit www.backtonatives.org or call 949-509-4787.

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