



CENTER for
**LAND-BASED
LEARNING**

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**Center for Land-Based Learning, Clark Pacific and Audubon
to Demonstrate Use of Native Plants in Creative Landscaping
at Woodland Plant**

February 5th Field Day Launches the Project Planting

Winters, CA—The Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL), on February 5th, will lead the second of three hands-on SLEWS field days with high school students from the Met School Sacramento who will be planting hundreds of native trees, shrubs and grasses as part of a creative landscaping buffer around the Clark Pacific Woodland Plant. On the first field day, held on December 9th, 2008, the students installed drip irrigation line in preparation for the planting. CLBL, in partnership with Clark Pacific and Audubon's Landowner Stewardship Program, have developed a landscaping plan for the Woodland Clark Pacific site that uses native plants as its buffer.

“This project represents an increasingly attractive approach in landscaping and an innovative partnership that sets a great example for local, community-based landscaping plans,” said Mary Kimball, executive director of the Center for Land-Based Learning. “We hope that this site can be a model for the area and it is an example where Clark Pacific is demonstrating a commitment to creative land stewardship and education.”

“We are a Yolo County based company with strong ties to our community,” said Bob Clark, president of operations at Clark Pacific. “We have a reputation of doing right by our customers and by our neighbors. The Center for Land-Based Learning and Audubon partnership was a natural fit to meet these objectives.”

The Hedgerow and Native Grasses project at the Woodland site began in October, 2008 with direct seeding of native grasses (purchased from a local source, Hedgerow Farms), by Audubon California staff. An additional planting date is set with SLEWS students on March 3rd, when the students will return to complete the plantings and complete the monitoring and maintenance of the site. Audubon, CLBL and Clark Pacific hope to use the project as an on-going demonstration about the viability of native landscaping techniques.

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The Landscaping and Irrigation Plan at the Clark Pacific site will promote erosion control with native plants and incorporate Best Management Practices that would best control potential water quality impacts from erosion and sedimentation. The company has additionally ensured that all of the plants used for the project are compatible with longer-term habitat mitigation within the Best Management Practices Storm Water Pollution Plan.

A partial plant list includes: Valley Oak, Fremont Cottonwood, California Buckeye, Western Sycamore, Holly Leaf Cherry, Box Elder, Coffeeberry, Red Willow, Coyote Brush, Mexican Elderberry, Western Redbud, Ceanothus Dark Star, Flannel Brush, Toyon, Buckwheat, California Blackberry, California Wild Rose and Deergrass, all purchased from local sources.

Background

The Center for Land Based Learning, through their innovative SLEWS Program, provides learning experiences to youth at the “ground level”, ensuring that they develop an understanding for the critical interplay of agriculture, nature and community. Through a CLBL partnership with Audubon’s Landowner Stewardship Program, local high school students are engaged in landscaping and habitat restoration projects that enhance classroom learning, develop leadership skills and result in real habitat restoration in their communities. The February 5th planting will be conducted by approximately 25 SLEWS students who attend Met Sacramento High School.

Clark Pacific, headquartered in West Sacramento, specializes in architectural and structural precast concrete solutions for new construction throughout California. Using leading technologies and more than 40 years of design/build experience, Clark Pacific provides its clients high quality structures built to last. Recently, the company introduced a new paradigm of construction efficiency to the West Coast – “Total Precast” structures that integrate architectural and structural features into single elements that are erected quickly on-site. This “All-in-One” approach brings cost-effective and fast construction within easy reach.

The Met Sacramento High School has been involved in the SLEWS Program for six years, and is an innovative high school that teaches through the use of internships. Instead of being in a classroom all day, Met students are released into the real world to gain valuable experience in the workplace. A Met student can get an internship almost anywhere. For more information on the Met, see <http://www.metsacramento.org/>.

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