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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TREE COALITION SEEKS TO CLEAN THE AIR BY PLANTING
4,000 TREES ACROSS CALIFORNIA IN A SINGLE DAY**

Group to plant 1230 trees in the Central Coast region on Make a Difference Day 2010

(LOMPOC, Calif. – August 4, 2010) United Voices for Healthier Communities will be planting 4000 trees on October 23, 2010 at over 100 locations across California. Planting sites will be in San Diego County, the Fresno region and the Central Coast, with focus on areas of high need such as schools, playgrounds and senior centers or regions of high emissions such as freeway ramps, rail yards and refineries. The Central Coast region will plant 1230 trees at sites in Goleta, Lompoc and Thousand Oaks. Local volunteers can contact Cindy McCall with the City of Lompoc: c_mccall@ci.lompoc.ca.us

The ability of trees to effectively remove pollutants from the air is widely known, but the public may be surprised to learn that 100 trees remove 21 tons of CO₂ and 604 lbs of pollutants per year, including 243 lbs of ozone and 149 lbs of particulates, according to the Center for Urban Forest Research. Professional arborists will be present at all tree planting events to teach volunteers about the benefits of trees and to demonstrate proper planting standards. To learn more about proper tree care and how to hire an arborist, visit www.treesaregood.com.

Funding for this project comes from the California ReLeaf AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT Grant Program through the USDA Forest Service. Aside from funding the actual trees, this funding will create 8 full time jobs including project managers and tree caretakers. Community events held at each site on the planting day will add an educational component to the project and aims to teach the public about the benefits of trees.

United Voices for Healthier Communities partners include the California Urban Forests Council, Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Fresno, Urban Corps of San Diego County, City of Lompoc, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council, Central Coast Regional Urban Forests Council and San Joaquin Valley Urban Forests Council. This is the second project of this nature for United Voices for Healthier Communities; the first was in 2007 and focused on Southern California Communities.

For more information please visit www.unitedvoices.org or contact Mary Pendleton at the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, mary@wcisa.net or 415-571-8616.

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