

For Immediate Release

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Las Plumas High School Grows Thousands of Acorns for River Partners

Spirit of California Arbor Day Lives through Student Involvement in Conservation

Chico, CA – 6 March 2006 – River Partners, a Chico-based non-profit organization involved in river land restoration, is benefiting from the help of students from Las Plumas High School in Oroville. Students from the Regional Occupation Program are growing over 1,300 oak acorns. Local businesses donated the containers. River Partners supplied the acorns and the soil. The students, led by Mr. Paul Olson, will cultivate the trees on campus from March through October with the help of Future Farmers of America. When the crop is ready, River Partners will plant the new oak trees within the Feather River watershed. As part of River Partners' efforts, these trees will be used to restore a riparian forest.

“There are 60 special needs students, grades 9th through 12th, involved with the acorn project,” says Paul Olson of Butte County’s ROP program at Las Plumas High School. “The kids are applying new horticultural skills and working in teams. Since the project spans the summer months, they are learning to see a project through to the end. Just as important, though, this is an opportunity for them to give to the community by helping a non-profit organization.” Future Farmers of America will lend their efforts to the project during the summer months.

River Partners learned about the potential of Las Plumas High School’s collaboration from Principal Jeff Ochs of Prospect High School, also in Oroville. “The Acorn Project is a great example of the whole community coming together,” says Tad Alexander, Chief Operations Officer of River Partners. “We had an abundance of acorns, but nobody to plant and tend to them. When Principal Ochs connected us to Las Plumas High School, we suddenly had a win-win situation.”

The successful beginning of the Las Plumas High School Acorn Project coincides with March 7th, the day the California Department of Education observes Conservation Day, Arbor Day and Bird Day. For over a century, California has celebrated the importance of trees and the environment, especially their role in civic beautification and quality of life. The students’ work for River Partners fully embraces the Day’s spirit of conservation and civic involvement.

River Partners is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment. More information about River Partners’ projects and program is available at www.RiverPartners.org.

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