



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE BUDGET CRISIS PUTS CRUNCH ON CORPS;
HELP BY GETTING CASH FOR CANS**

The Orange County Conservation Corps, in partnership with Waste Management, operates a "buy-back" Recycling Center in Irvine where the public can redeem bottles and cans for cash! As a non-profit organization, Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) uses the Recycling Center proceeds to enhance and support programs for Orange County communities and programs that support underserved and disadvantaged young adults.

However, now more than ever, OCCC needs the financial support of individual and corporate contributions, grants, contracts and entrepreneurial projects to help keep its programs, services, and doors open.

Orange County Conservation Corps is drastically affected by the state's budget crisis. Funding from the Department of Conservation to increase recycling of bottles and cans and reduce litter has been dramatically cut. One element of the funds collectively gave all Community Conservation Corps a total of \$15 million plus cost of living increases to run recycling programs. However, between the decrease in beverage sales, increase in recycling redemption, and the previous government loans of those funds (which have yet to be repaid), OCCC will have overall budget cuts of more than 42 percent.

Public support yields an immediate financial benefit to the community in the form of economic stimulus such as reduced expenses associated with criminal activity and drug use, and reduction of reliance upon other social services. OCCC provides employment, training, and educational opportunities to at-risk young adults who are trying to reclaim their futures with the financial crisis looming at their doorstep.

OCCC will roll out a plan that addresses this budget crisis in the next few days.

About Orange County Conservation Corps:

OCCC is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 as part of the Anaheim anti-gang taskforce and is affiliated with the Corps Network, California Association of Local Conservation Corps, and other youth service organizations. The OCCC is a voluntary work/learn program that provides an opportunity for at-risk and disadvantaged youths, age 18 to 25, to earn a living while learning valuable employment skills through job training and attending the on-site charter school to earn their high school diploma. Work projects are environmentally-based and benefit the community. Funding is provided through the California Department of Conservation as well as individual and corporate contributions, grants, contracts and entrepreneurial projects. For more information visit their website at www.hireyouth.org.

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Attached: Notice of Proportional Reductions in Payments