



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

February 20, 2013

Dear Buck Gully Neighbor:

The Buck Gully Reserve just outside your backdoor includes 300 acres of lush wilderness owned by the City of Newport Beach. It is home to numerous species of plants and animals and a recently improved trail system for recreational uses. We are asking for your help with preserving this resource for future generations. Therefore, we are providing you with the necessary information to be our partner in this endeavor. Additionally, we would like to inform you of some work that is taking place within the gully that will likely take years to complete.

The City of Newport Beach (City) has partnered with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy (Conservancy) to manage the Reserve through, among other means, targeted invasive plant species identification, removal and habitat restoration. An extensive study was recently completed that mapped out areas where habitat restoration opportunities occur within the gully. In order to reverse the effects of these invasive plants and reduce the threat of wild fires, a concerted effort is being taken to remove the non-native and fire-prone plants and trees within the Reserve. You may begin to notice volunteers, under the direction of the Conservancy, working on City property beginning in March within the hazard reduction zone as indicated on the enclosed map.

Attached is a Buck Gully Reserve Educational Brochure illustrating how you can help through three simple steps to consider when maintaining your yard: **1). Plant Natives 2). Reduce Water Use and 3). Reduce Fire Fuels.** Any assistance that you can provide on your side of the property line will positively impact the work being done on public property in the Reserve. A great way to learn more about planting natives around your home is by attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual City of Newport Beach WaterMiser Workshop. This workshop will be held Thursday, March 14 from 6-8pm at the Central Library. It will also include a vendor showcase where specialists will be available to answer planting and water conservation efforts applicable to properties adjacent to Buck Gully.

The City and Conservancy will continue to reduce fire risks and improve the health and stability of Buck Gully. We hope you will join us in this effort to "Love the Gully." If you have any questions about the work being accomplished, please contact Steven Michael, Life Safety Specialist with the Newport Beach Fire Department at 949-644-3108 or email [smichael@nbfd.net](mailto:smichael@nbfd.net). For water use questions, contact Shane Burckle, Water Conservation Coordinator at 949-644-3214 or email [sburckle@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:sburckle@newportbeachca.gov) to assist you in your water reduction efforts.

We look forward to a fully restored Buck Gully for you, the community, and the many native plants and animals that call it home to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Laura Detweiler, Director  
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