

## **Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens**

Rancho Los Alamitos  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LONG BEACH CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS FOUNDATION'S 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

LONG BEACH, CA (Feb. 16, 2011) – At its meeting last evening, the Long Beach City Council presented a Proclamation to Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Foundation's partnership with the City to manage, preserve and present Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch & Gardens.

Confronted in 1986 with gardens and buildings in great need of repair, and no cohesive interpretation or educational focus for the site, at the outset the Foundation developed a comprehensive and award-winning Master Plan. The steady implementation of the Plan has resulted in the restoration and preservation of the gardens and ranch house and the evolution of

nationally acclaimed educational products and in-classroom programs. This year the Foundation completes a major restoration of the historic Barns Area and will unveil a state-of-the-art Education Center in November. The “Rancho Center” is an innovative blend of historic and new architecture and will feature a permanent exhibition that looks at the ranch land over time and tells the story of the land, its people and their aspirations as a microcosm of the Southern California experience. Film, wall and floor murals and masterful graphics add regional context and explore the landscape, natives and newcomers, borders and boundaries and what has changed and what has stayed the same.

The Proclamation also highlights the remarkable return on the City’s investment achieved through the partnership. “Rancho Los Alamitos is an important part of Long Beach’s heritage and future,” says Long Beach City Council member Gary DeLong. “We are very fortunate to have such a vibrant educational facility in our city.”

At this point in time, the Foundation in its partnership with the City, has systematically executed 164 of the 167 recommendations of its Master Plan for the site. Moreover, while the capital improvement projects have substantially enhanced and improved a City cultural asset, they have been largely executed by the Foundation without funding from the City. Through the Proclamation, the City affirms its partnership with RLAF and looks toward the future as the new Education Center provides additional educational opportunities for people throughout the area to explore and understand the evolution of the place where they live.

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*Rancho Los Alamitos is owned by the City of Long Beach and operated by Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation as a public/private cooperative venture under the auspices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. The site is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m., with school tours offered weekday mornings. Admission is free and parking is available on site. Enter though Bixby Hill residential security gate at Anaheim and Palo Verde. For information about the site, tours, or events and programs, visit [www.rancholosalamitos.com](http://www.rancholosalamitos.com).*