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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COASTKEEPER, SCE PILOT SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING PROJECT**  
*The SmartScape retrofit is one of Orange County's most sustainable landscapes*

ORANGE, Calif. – Orange County Coastkeeper and Southern California Edison (SCE) unveiled a new sustainable design standard in landscaping Thursday in the City of Orange.

State, county and local officials took part in a dedication ceremony at SCE's Villa Park Substation, where 3 acres of turf grass and trees were replaced with drought-tolerant, environmentally friendly landscaping. The practices, which can be easily adopted by homeowners and businesses, will:

- Save up to 50 percent in water
- Eliminate dry-weather runoff
- Trim maintenance costs
- Reduce the site's carbon footprint
- Create a habitat for urban wildlife, primarily birds



Several dignitaries presented proclamations associated with the project.

“This is the largest Green Street project in Southern California,” said Guy Stivers of Stivers and Associates, one of the landscape professionals to work on the project. At 2,500 linear feet of street area, the project reflects the latest in sustainable landscape practices, including living soils, bioswales, percolation trenches and detention basins that can store up to 36,000 gallons of water on site.

Garry Brown, executive director of Orange County Coastkeeper, said the SCE project and a series of sustainable demonstration gardens project spearheaded by Coastkeeper at Santiago Community College reflect practices that can and should be adopted by Southern California homeowners and businesses. Conserving resources and eliminating runoff protects the environment and area watersheds.

Dawn Wilson, director of corporate resources for SCE, said the utility is committed to investing in green and sustainable projects, while providing safe and reliable power to its customers. The Villa Park substation landscape retrofit is one of six sustainable projects being implemented by Edison.



The project, part of a “SmartScape” initiative introduced by Coastkeeper, reflects practices that can be applied to area homes and businesses. A two-year monitoring program will analyze and verify savings in water, maintenance and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The project was coordinated by Coastkeeper, SCE, Clark and Green Associates, Stivers and Associates, and Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc. To learn more, visit Coastkeeper’s website at [www.coastkeeper.org/smartscape/](http://www.coastkeeper.org/smartscape/).



**About Orange County Coastkeeper:** Orange County Coastkeeper, founded in 1999, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the marine habitats and watersheds of Orange County through programs of education, restoration, enforcement and advocacy.

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