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Historic Sea Scout Building To Be Moved at Palo Alto Baylands

Environmental Volunteers Begins Restoration with House Movers

Palo Alto, CA – November 12, 2008 – Environmental Volunteers, www.EVols.org, (The EV), an education nonprofit serving Bay Area schools for 36 years, invites the public to witness the physical move of the historic Sea Scout building between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2008 at the Palo Alto Baylands. House movers will raise the building, which is situated at the edge of protected marshland; move it approximately 200 feet east to an adjacent lot; build a new concrete foundation over the next two months, and then return the building back onto a new foundation. The building will be raised approximately 3.5 feet to keep it above both the 100-year flood limit and projected rising sea levels.

This major step in the year-long restoration and transformation of the building into the EcoCenter, a new community resource for environmental education, follows four years of planning, review, fundraising and permitting by 14 state and federal agencies and 10 City of Palo Alto departments. Upon completion at the end of 2009, the EcoCenter will be The EV's new headquarters for environmental education programs for Bay Area families.



After placing 90'-long steel beams through the building and strapping them to the floor joists, house movers will raise the historic structure with pneumatic jacks. Once raised, the building will be pulled by a large winch and roll along steel rollers placed over the steel beams. Once the new foundation is completed, the building will be moved back onto it using the same method.

Project Manager Maryanne Welton is overseeing construction at the site for The EV. The Baylands location of the EcoCenter poses particular challenges for the on-site restoration and transformation into a workable center: its location on the marsh, adjacent to the Palo Alto Airport, and its status on the historic register. Originally designed by noted Palo Alto architect Birge Clark, the historic restoration efforts have been lead by local architect Chris Wasney of Cody Anderson Wasney. Working with Rich Cody of Cody Brock Construction, the team developed detailed logistics to move and rehabilitate the building while complying with stringent environmental restrictions. The habitat and breeding seasons of three protected species – the burrowing owl, salt-marsh harvest mouse and the endangered clapper rail -- will be protected during the construction phase.

A groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction phase of the project was held Sunday, September 14, 2008 and was attended by more than 140 community members and local leaders. At the ceremony, the EV announced it had raised more than \$2 million of its goal of \$4 million for the EcoCenter campaign, including restoration and construction and new community programs. The EV invites interested supporters to contribute to the EcoCenter campaign at <http://www.EVols.org/EcoCenter/>

Founded in 1972, Environmental Volunteers is dedicated to promoting an understanding of, and responsibility for, the environment through hands-on science education. In 2003, Environmental Volunteers, a 501(c) (3) corporation, was a recipient of the California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in Children's Environmental Education. To learn more about the Environmental Volunteers, please visit www.EVols.org.

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