



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catalina Island Conservancy Receives a Generous Community Grant

Funding Helps Install Energy Efficiencies in The Trailhead Visitor Center in Avalon

AVALON –Edison International made a very generous community grant of \$100,000 to the Catalina Island Conservancy to help the nonprofit organization install HVAC controls and energy saving management tools in the new Trailhead Visitor Center building in Avalon, the Conservancy announced today. The tools will be linked to a kiosk that will enable the public to see the actual real time energy and water usage of the building.

The Trailhead will be a more prominently located visitor center that will serve as a portal to the 42,000 acres of Catalina Island wildlands under the Conservancy's stewardship. The new visitor center is a centerpiece of the Conservancy's **IMAGINE CATALINA** capital campaign and is scheduled to open later this year.

"We are grateful for Edison International's generous grant to the Conservancy and its support for the Trailhead," said Tony Budrovich, Conservancy president and CEO.

"In addition to helping the Conservancy achieve energy and environmental efficiencies in the building, Southern California Edison, through its Emerging Technologies Program, is also providing technical assistance and funding of up to \$100,000 for the installation and implementation of a Building Management System. This system will help ensure more sustainable operations by monitoring the building's energy usage and performance to determine energy efficiency and demand response."

Thanks to Edison, the building performance data will be displayed via a kiosk to demonstrate the technology to visitors and the public, as well as serve as an important educational tool to reinforce the importance of energy and water conservation. The Trailhead Visitor Center will be a model for sustainability, as Avalon's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. It will feature native plants in the rooftop garden, a rainwater collection system, a photovoltaic system on roof surfaces and saltwater flush toilets.

“We are proud to support the Conservancy’s efforts in integrating the use of clean energy technologies into the design for the Trailhead. The community grant and funding to the Conservancy demonstrates [Edison’s commitment](#) to investing in the environment and is a step towards helping to build a clean energy future for California,” said Ron Nichols, President, Southern California Edison. “Edison’s support for The Trailhead’s technologies that will reduce water usage also highlights our ongoing efforts to promote water conservation and protect the land and natural resources on Catalina Island.”

The Trailhead will serve as an educational resource, with educational displays and Naturalist trained guides to guide visitors to the interior. The 9,000+ square-foot visitor center will be an attractive multilevel building featuring meeting spaces, a transportation hub for the popular Eco Tour program, mission-related retail, a small café and a roof deck with expansive views of the harbor.

About the Conservancy

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline. It provides an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 165 miles of hiking opportunities within its road and trail system. The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and guided experiences in the Island's rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to 60 species - and counting - that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit www.catalinaconservancy.org.