



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Second Annual “Wonders of Water Week” in Full Swing in South Tahoe Schools**

South Lake Tahoe, CA, October 22, 2010 – South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (STEEC) environmental educators are busy bringing water-based interdisciplinary activities into South Tahoe elementary school classrooms from October 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> through the second annual Wonders of Water (WOW) Week curriculum. Over 2,000 students in grades K-6 will be reached through this year's WOW Week programs in all five Lake Tahoe Unified District elementary schools and Zephyr Cove Elementary. The curriculum includes activities on watershed health, water conservation, fish life cycles, food webs, water cycles, water quality and the importance of stewardship of water resources.

“Both the ‘WOW’ and ‘Trees are Terrific’ programs have been very well received in our district. We have received rave reviews from all involved, and the teachers and students really look forward to these presentations,” said Beth Quandt, Science Outreach Coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Unified School District. “The students love having ‘real world experts’ in the classroom, and we hope to expand the programs to include more service learning projects in the field that compliment in-classroom presentations.”

The goal of the Wonders of Water (WOW) Program is to provide hands-on, interdisciplinary activities to educate children about the importance of water. Modeled on the “Trees are Terrific” program, WOW focuses on providing an interactive learning experience while meeting state’s content standards, which allows students the opportunity to meet professionals working in the water field and to begin exploring the broad range of conservation projects under way in the Tahoe Basin. STEEC is a partnership of over 20 local agencies and organizations, which first brought the WOW Week curriculum to South Tahoe Schools in the fall of 2009. Several organizations have contributed staff time for classroom activities and training, including Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), US Forest Service Tahoe Basin Management Unit, California Trout, and the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science.

**About Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD)**

Tahoe RCD's mission is to promote the conservation and improvement of the Lake Tahoe Basin's soil, water, and related natural resources by providing leadership, information, programs, and technical assistance to all land managers, owners, organizations, and residents. Tahoe RCD is a non-regulatory, grant funded, not-for-profit agency that works with a variety of partner agencies to implement programs and outreach, which currently focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species control, and conservation landscaping.

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