



EMERALD
NECKLACE



AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS



AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE

EG-19-033

DECEMBER 13TH 2024 - JUNE 30TH 2025

2025

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE
EG-19-033



MARINA DEL REY- 3/22/2025 BALLONA WETLANDS, FRESHWATER MARSH



INFO SHEET

DATE OF TRIP: 3/22/2025

LOCATION: Ballona Freshwater Marsh,
Lincoln Blvd, Playa Del Rey, CA 90298

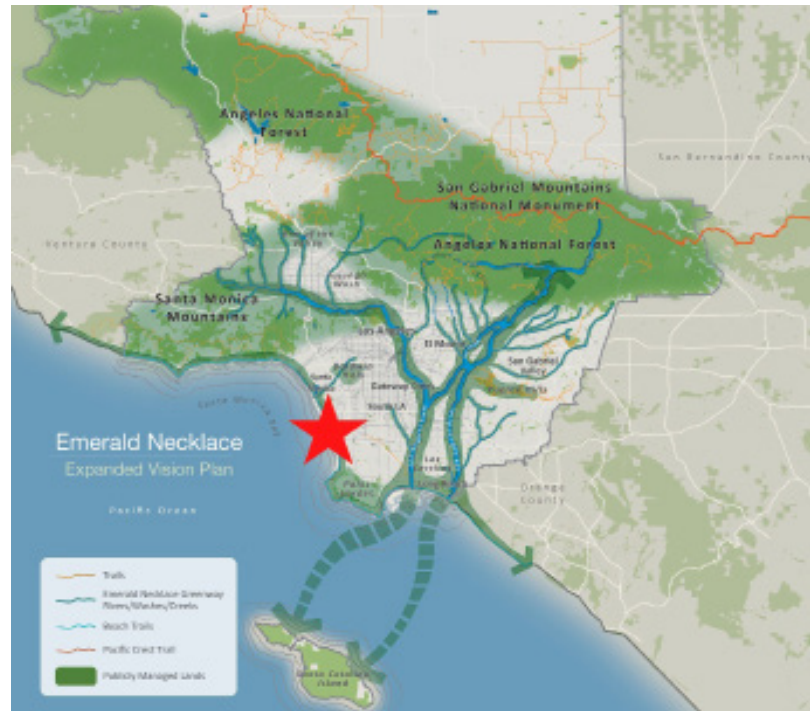
ACTIVITY: Wetland and Water Ecology
Lesson, Bird Watching Hike

TIME START: 8 AM

TIME END: 1 PM

PARTNERS: Friends of Ballona Wetlands

LEADERS/GUIDES: Pasadena Audubon
Society Educators, Amigos de los Rios staff



MAP VIEW OF THE FRESHWATER MARSH

METRICS:

Total Participants: 32

Zip Codes: 91010, 91016, 91007, 91702

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES:

Joined by 32 participants, we arranged for private bus transport for registered families, and headed to Ballona Wetlands Freshwater Marsh. Our staff was joined by two expert birders from Pasadena Audubon Society, who provided bird facts and identification to the families during the hike. Upon entering the wetlands, we discussed safety, 'Leave No Trace' principles, and how to observe wildlife respectfully. We provided families with binoculars, magnifying glasses, and handheld wildlife guides to use during their hike. We went over how to properly use these exploration tools, and began our hike.

During our hike we had 3 stopping points, where we discussed the natural and historic indicators around us. As a group we identified migratory birds, plants historically used by the Tongva people, and the wetland's role in our greater watershed. The families were delighted to see birds, insects, and even a gopher snake. We encouraged participants to use their senses to take in their surroundings. After 2 hours of exploring the freshwater marsh, we went to

INFO SHEET

the neighboring recreation park to use restrooms and enjoyed a lunch as a group.

INFO SHEET

RECRUITMENT (WHERE AND HOW):

We connected with local disadvantaged schools within a 10 mile radius of Dorris Dann Community Center . This trip's families were notably from Plymouth Elementary, 3 miles from Dorris Dann.

LOGISTICS:

Transportation: We purchased bus transportation from our most affordably quoted company.

Transport Company: JFK Transportation

Transportation Cost: \$833.18

Number of Staff Managing Event: 2 Amigos de los Rios Staff, 2 College Corp Fellow Staff, 1 California Climate Action Corp Staff, 5 total.

SUPPLIES:

Safety: We provided reusable water bottles, hats, and backpacks for participants to keep. We brought binoculars, wildlife guides, and magnifying glasses to use during their experience. Our staff was equipped with crossing guard signs for crossing roads, first aid kits, whistles, sunscreen, bug spray, and a list of participants.

Food: For breakfast we provided granola bars and bananas to the group before boarding the bus. After the hike we had a group lunch of wrap pinwheels, chips, and tangerines.



PARTICIPANTS LOOKING FOR WILDLIFE

PHOTOS



FAMILY ENJOYING PROVIDED GEAR TO EXPLORE



YOUTH READING INTERPRETIVE SIGNS



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS USING MAGNIFYING GLASSES TO INSPECT INSECTS



SECTION FROM WILDLIFE GUIDE CREATED FOR THE TRIP

PHOTOS



FATHER AND SON ON THE TRAILS



STAFF DEMONSTRATING SIGN SAFETY



PARTICIPANT VIEWING WILDLIFE



PARTICIPANTS ON THE BUS



PARTICIPANTS LOOKING FOR IN-
SECTS



MOTHER AND SON WITH AUDUBON
SOCIETY STAFF

2025

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE
EG-19-033



SAN GABRIEL RIVER - 4/10/2025 WHITTIER NARROWS NATURAL AREA



INFO SHEET

DATE OF TRIP: 4/10/2025

LOCATION: Whittier Narrows Natural Area
and Nature Center - 1000 S Durfee Ave, South
El Monte, CA 91733

ACTIVITY: Hike along the San Gabriel River,
Visit Whittier Narrows Nature Center, Live
Demonstration of Birds of Prey and Reptile
Education, Community Science, iNaturalist
and PlanIT Geo Observations

TIME START: 8 AM

TIME END: 2 PM

LEADERS/GUIDES: Whittier Narrows Nature
Center Educator Staff

METRICS:

Total Participants: 22

Zip Codes: 91103, 91104, 91016, 91107

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES:

After we arrived at Whittier Narrows Natural Area and Nature Center, we started off with safety protocol and restroom breaks for the group. Once everyone was ready, we made our way to the first stop, the Pollinator Trail. Here we gave the participants tablets and showed them how to use iNaturalist plant identification software, and explained how they could participate in community science. Participants went around the Pollinator Trail identifying insects and plants. We continued to work our way through the trail system, stopping at cactus covered in cochineal insects. We used this opportunity to discuss the insects dyeing abilities, and the significance of these dyes in indigenous and Spanish royalty's histories. We then enjoyed the San Gabriel River Trail, choosing a scenic area to sit and observe the



MAP VIEW OF NATURAL AREA ENTRANCE

INFO SHEET

water fowl with binoculars. After enjoying the rivers trail system, we led the participants back to the nature center. Here the park staff brought out educational, live, birds of prey for the participants to learn about. Inside the center, participants met over fifteen reptiles, and learned about their adaptations and eating habits. Afterwards we enjoyed a group lunch.

INFO SHEET

RECRUITMENT (WHERE AND HOW):

Participants were found through an El Monte mentorship program called Upward Bound, that focuses on low income and first generation students in the San Gabriel Valley. We created a flyer with registration portal QR code, where interested participants signed up.

Forms and flyers were available in both English and Spanish.

LOGISTICS:

Transportation: Bus

Transport Company: Top Transportation Service

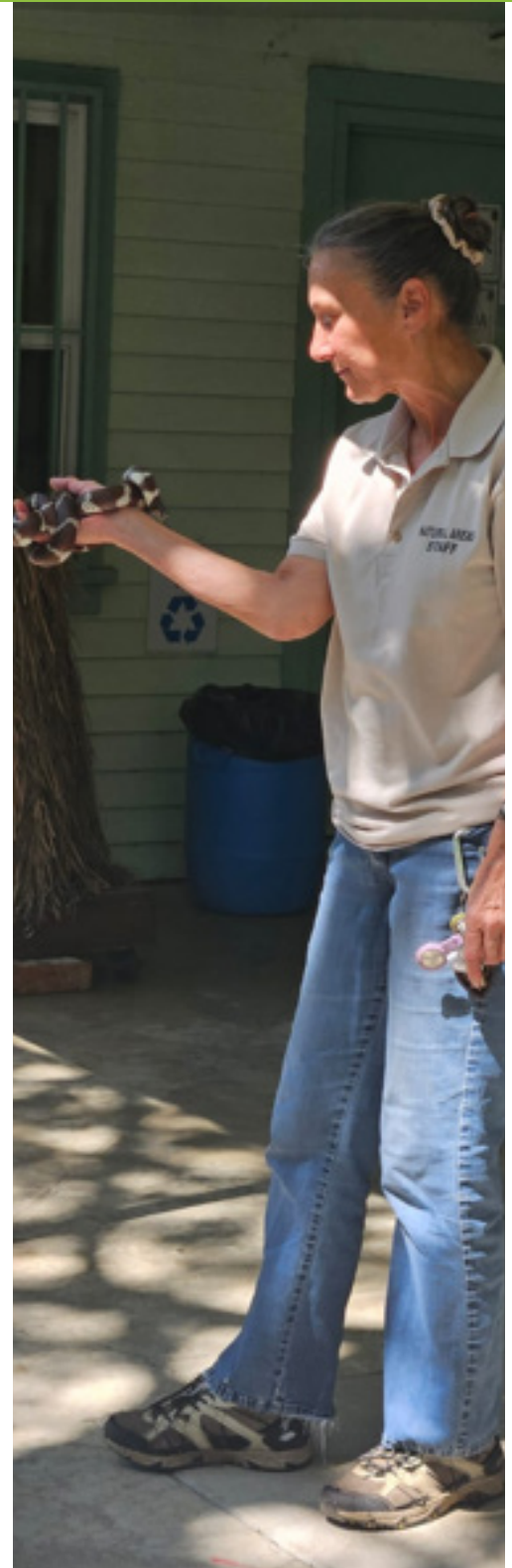
Transport Cost: \$1,222

Number of Staff Managing Event: 2 Amigos De Los Rios Staff, 2 California Climate Action Corp Fellows, 4 total.

SUPPLIES:

Safety: For safety supplies, each staff member was equipped with backpacks containing whistles, sunscreen, bug spray, emergency waters, a first aid kit, and a list of participants.

Food: For breakfast we provided granola bars, bananas, and apples. For lunch we provided sandwiches, tangerines, and chips.



PARK STAFF SHOWING PARTICIPANTS
CALIFORNIA KING SNAKE

PHOTOS



CLIMATE ACTION CORP FELLOW
DISCUSSING COCHINEAL WITH THE GROUP



PARTICIPANTS IN NEW HATS



HAWKS IN NATURE CENTERS AVIARY



GROUP AFTER NATURE CENTER EXPLORATION

2025

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE
EG-19-033



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK CHINO-PUENTE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR 4/13/2025



INFO SHEET

DATE OF TRIP: 4/12/2025

LOCATION: Chino Hills State Park Discovery Center, 4500 Carbon Canyon Rd Brea, CA, 92823

ACTIVITY: Hike, PORTS Program

Biodiversity Lesson

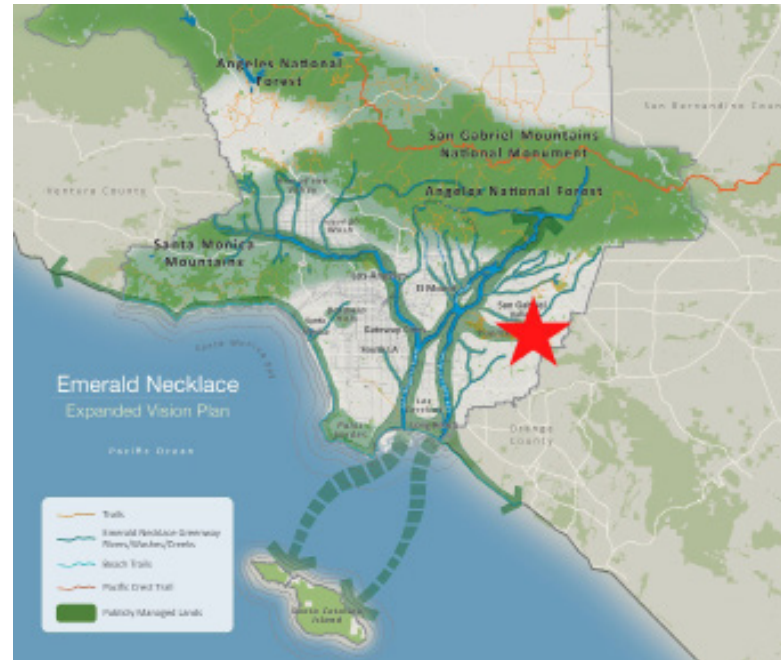
TIME START: 8:30 AM

TIME END: 2:30 PM

METRICS:

Total Participants: 20

Zip Codes: 91732, 91007, 91733



MAP VIEW OF THE STATE PARK DISCOVERY ENTRANCE

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES:

Participants met at Mountain View High School, where they boarded the bus to the state park. Upon arriving at Chino Hills State Park Discovery Center, we met Interpretive Ranger Michele Imler and volunteer docent Barbara, whom we had pre-arranged a lesson. Participants were split in to two groups, one to start in nature center and one to start on Discovery Center Trail. In the Discovery Center, Barbara educated the group, on the geological history of the area, and its changes over time. Participants explored the centers interactive exhibits on ecology and habitats.

On the discovery center trail, Ranger Imler gave a lesson on biodiversity, plant adaptations, and their relationship with our weather. After both groups experienced each station, we had a group lunch. After lunch we hiked the larger trail system as a group. On this trail participants used binoculars to view wildlife, learned about the invasive mustard plant problem we face, and vernal pools.

INFO SHEET



Participants on trail with California State Parks staff.

INFO SHEET

RECRUITMENT (WHERE AND HOW):

Participants were found through an El Monte mentorship program called Upward Bound, that works with low income and first generation students in the San Gabriel Valley. We created a flyer with registration portal QR code. Form and flyer were available in English and Spanish

LOGISTICS:

Transportation: Bus Reservation

Transport Company: JFK Transportation

Transport Cost: \$895.57

Number of Staff Managing Event: 2 Amigos de los Rios staff, 1 California Climate Action Fellow, 3 total.

SUPPLIES:

Safety: For safety supplies, we brought a backpack with a first aid kit, a list of participants, whistles, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Drinks and Food: We provided reusable water bottles for participants to keep after the experience. For breakfast we provided fruit and granola bars. For lunch we provided platters of sliced wraps, chips, and tangerines.

“Overall the experience was great, we had the chance to learn about the different wildlife and native plants in the area. To top it off we went on a little hike to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the area it was fantastic!” - Anthony Reyes, 17



PARTICIPANT PHOTOGRAPHING THE
LANDSCAPE

PHOTOS



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



PARTICIPANTS DURING BIODIVERSITY LESSON



PARTICIPANTS AT PARK ENTRANCE



PARK DOCENT BARBARA AND PARTICIPANTS

PHOTOS



PARK DOCENT BARBARA DISCUSSING MOUNTAIN LION TERRITORIES WITH PARTICIPANTS



HEADING TO THE VERNAL POOL SECTION OF TRAIL



PARTICIPANTS VIEWING THE ROLLING HILLS FROM OVERLOOK DECK



THE GROUP LEARNING ABOUT PLANTS ADAPTATIONS AND WEATHER

2025

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE
EG-19-033



ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST- 6/19/2025 CHILAO CAMPGROUND



INFO SHEET

DATE OF TRIP: 6/19/2025

LOCATION: Chilao Campground, Angeles
National Forest, Palmdale, CA 93550

ACTIVITY: Altitude Training Run

TIME START: 5:30 AM

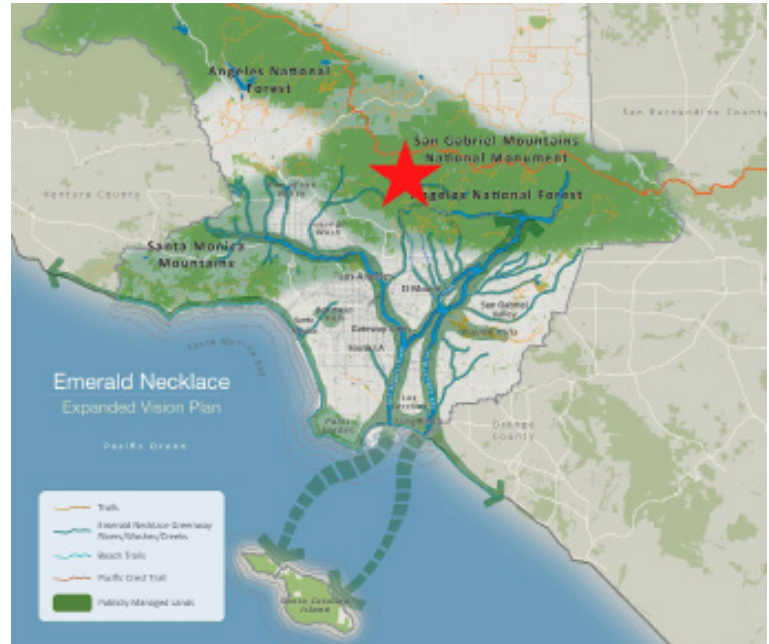
TIME END: 11 AM

LEADERS/GUIDES: Bryon Hake, Arroyo
High School Cross Country Coach

METRICS:

Total Participants: 16 participants

Zip Codes: 91731, 91732, 91744, 91061, 91733,
91780, 91006, 91801, 91754



MAP VIEW OF THE CAMPGROUNDS ENTRANCE

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES:

Chilao Campground, sitting 5,600 feet above sea level, was a great introduction to altitude training for our athletes who typically run at 250 feet above sea level. We started to head to the campground at 5:30 am, to beat the heat. Upon arrival, participants were given a safety talk, including altitude sickness, overexertion, and wildlife encounter preparedness scenarios. Participants began with applying sunscreen and bug spray, and stretching to prepare for their run. The cross country team ran 7 miles overall, doing a predetermined trail loop multiple times.

After their run, we gave participants a wildlife guide and binoculars to explore the area, while they rested. After enjoying the the views, we shared a group breakfast together before heading back to El Monte.

INFO SHEET

RECRUITMENT:

We connected with Arroyo High School, an El Monte campus, track and cross country coaches to extend this opportunity to their athletes. A flyer and registration portal was created, in Spanish and English.

LOGISTICS

Transportation: Bus

Transport Type: Minibus

Transport Company: TTS

Transport Cost: \$1,640.80

Number of Staff Managing Event: 2 Amigos De Los Rios staff total

SUPPLIES

Safety: For safety supplies, we brought a backpacks with a first aid kit, a list of participants, the schedule for the day, an iPad, a bear horn, whistles, sunscreen, crossing signs, and bug spray.

Drinks and Food: We offered reusable water bottles, bananas and granola bars to the athletes to start the day. After their run we had a breakfast of pineapple, cantalope, strawberries, and bagels with cream cheese.



ATTENDEES USING BINOCULARS

PHOTOS



PARTICIPANTS VIEWING THE SCENARY



ATHLETES AFTER BREAKFAST



BINOCULARS AND WILDLIFE GUIDES
PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS TO USE.



YOUTH GROUP PHOTO

2025

AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS - EMERALD NECKLACE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA PROGRAM EL MONTE
EG-19-033



ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST- 6/19/2025 CHILAO CAMPGROUND



INFO SHEET

DATE OF TRIP: 6/28/2025

LOCATION: Chilao Campground, Angeles
National Forest, Palmdale, CA 93550

ACTIVITY: Altitude Training Run

TIME START: 5:30 AM

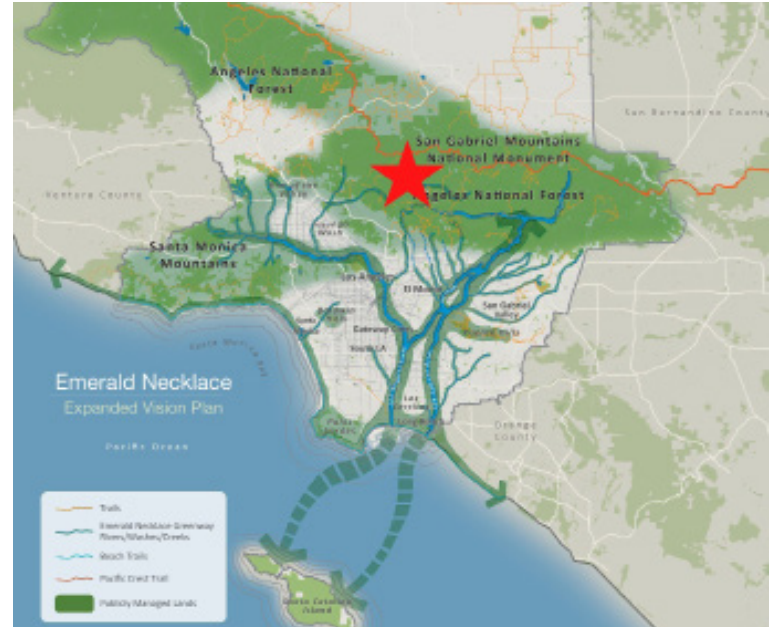
TIME END: 11 AM

LEADERS/GUIDES: Tim Messina, Arroyo
High School Cross Country Coach

METRICS:

Total Participants: 20

Zip Codes: 91006, 91731, 90011, 91733, 91732,
91007, 91780



MAP VIEW OF CAMPGROUND ENTRANCE

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION AND ACTIVITIES:

Chileo Campground, sitting 5,600 feet above sea level, was a great introduction to altitude training for our athletes who typically run at 250 feet above sea level. We started to head to the campground at 5:30 am, to beat the heat. Upon arrival, participants were given a safety talk, including altitude sickness, overexertion symptoms, and wildlife encounter preparedness scenarios. Participants began with applying sunscreen and bug spray, and stretching to prepare for their run. The cross country team ran 7 miles, doing a predetermined trail loop multiple times.

After their run, we gave participants a wildlife guide and binoculars to explore the area, while their bodies settled. After enjoying the views, we shared a group breakfast together before heading back to El Monte.

INFO SHEET

RECRUITMENT (WHERE AND HOW):

We connected with the Arroyo High School track and cross country coaches to extend this opportunity to their athletes. A flyer and registration portal was created, in Spanish and English.

LOGISTICS:

Transportation: Bus

Transport Type: Minibus

Transport Company: TTS

Transport Cost: \$1,640.80

Number of Staff Managing Event: 1 Amigos De Los Rios staff,
1 California Climate Action Fellow, 2 total.

SUPPLIES:

Safety: For safety supplies, we brought a backpacks with a first aid kit, a list of participants, the schedule for the day, an iPad, a bear horn, whistles, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Drinks and Food: We offered reusable water bottles, bananas and granola bars to the athletes to start the day. After their run we had a breakfast of pineapple, watermelon, orange juice, and bagels with cream cheese.



ATTENDEES STRETCHING

PHOTOS



TEAM GROUP PHOTO.



PARTICIPANT HOLDING COULTER PINE CONE



TEAMMATES SUNSCREENING EACH OTHER



PARTICIPANTS RUNNING FOR TRAINING

PHOTOS



“THE TRIP WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONING THROUGH RUNNING AT 6000+ FT. OF ELEVATION, AN OPPORTUNITY THEY WOULDN’T HAVE HAD WITHOUT AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS’ SUPPORT.”

-TIM MESSINA, HEAD TRACK & FIELD AND BOYS CROSS COUNTRY COACH FOR ARROYO HIGH SCHOOL