

PRESS RELEASE

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MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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**Mono Lake Committee to Honor Phillip Isenberg and Richard Lehman
with Annual Defender of the Trust Award**

On Wednesday, March 6, 2002, the Mono Lake Committee will honor Phillip Isenberg and Richard Lehman with its annual Defender of the Trust Award at a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Sutter Club, 1220 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California. As a Congressman, Richard Lehman sponsored legislation to create the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, the first Federal designation that identified Mono Lake as a special place for Millions of people to visit, and later made sure that federal air pollution laws covered dust storms at Mono Lake. As a California Assemblyman, Phil Isenberg co-authored the Environmental Water Act of 1989 (AB 444), offering \$60 million in funding to help Los Angeles develop new water supplies to replace the Mono Basin diversions.

These two pivotal events turned the momentum in favor of Mono Lake's preservation. Through the Scenic Area, millions of people learned about the importance of Mono Lake to the nation and the world. The value of the Scenic Area designation was that this was the first Federal designation that identified Mono Lake as a special place for millions of people to come and learn. And by providing funding for the development of replacement water supplies, the State initiated a problem solving approach that not only ensured Los Angeles would

have reliable, adequate water supplies, but also assured that Mono Lake's protection would not harm the San Francisco Bay Delta or any other place. These strides also helped shape a program that continues to have an impact on both Mono Lake's and California's water future by connecting urban groups that promote conservation with an environmental education program at Mono Lake, Outdoor Experiences, strengthening their understanding of the source of their water.

Proceeds from this fund raising event benefit the Mono Lake Committee's outdoor education programs. We thank our event sponsors:

Platinum, \$1,000

Martha Davis; Richard Robinson and Marjorie Swartz; Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.

Gold, \$500

Chevron Corporation; Rich Atwater; Ed Manning; Integrated Water Resources

Silver, \$250

Barbara Blake; Jensen & Coeur-Barron, LLP; David Kanner; P.S. Enterprises; Frances Spivy-Weber; Technical Glass

For ticket information contact Shelly Backlar, Development Director, (818) 716-8488 or shelly@monolake.org