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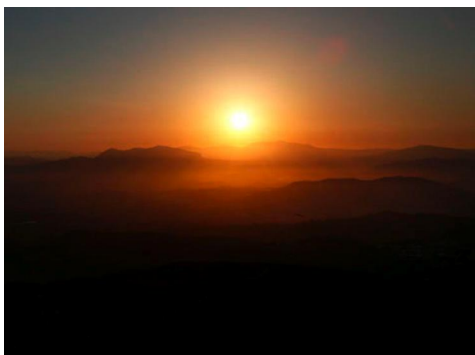
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Eight local groups vie for conservation grant

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Cowles Mountain is a popular urban hike in the middle of the Mission Trails Regional Park. — Peggy Peattie



Written by Mike Lee

1:17 p.m., Nov. 8, 2011

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San Diegans will decide which local environmental group wins the third annual ECO Ambassadors People's Choice Award and a grand prize of \$25,000 from San Diego Gas & Electric.

Eight nonprofit finalists announced Tuesday were selected by SDG&E and The San Diego River Park Foundation based on their records of environmental stewardship, innovation and responsibility.

The contestants are:

- U. S. Green Building Council -- San Diego chapter
- Project Wildlife
- Olivewood Gardens
- Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation
- The Science Exchange
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
- Lakeside River Park Foundation

The People's Choice Award is a part of the ECO Ambassadors campaign, a partnership between river park foundation, SDG&E and CBSS. The groups aims to build regional environmental awareness by educating and engaging residents in innovative programs.

Online voting will run from Nov. 11 through Dec. 1. Click here to vote.

The top vote-getter will receive \$25,000, the runner-up will receive \$10,000 and the other organizations will receive \$2,000 each.

Mike Lee: mike.lee@uniontrib.com; (619)293-2034; Follow on Twitter @sdutlee

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