

Centro Intercultural de Estudios de Desiertos y Océanos
CEDO, A.C.
Apartado Postal #53
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, México C.P. 83550
Teléfono y FAX: 06-382-0113, 0115
info@cedointercultural.org



Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans
CEDO, Inc.
P.O. Box 44208
Tucson, AZ , USA 85733-44208
Telephone /FAX: 520-320-5473
info@cedointercultural.org

CEDO Intercultural Settles it's Two-Year Land Dispute with the Clifton-Meridian Development Co.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, March 23, 2007 - On March 22, 2007, the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO) and Clifton-Meridian Development Co. signed a compromise agreement ending a two-year dispute over property rights in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora.

Conflicts with Clifton-Meridan over ownership of the CEDO properties began in 2004 and peaked in July 2006, after Patrick Clifton of the Clifton-Meridian Development Co. purchased adjacent properties for its Las Fuentes del Mar development project from the Desert Development Foundation (DDF) now known as the Seawater Foundation.

When CEDO incorporated as a bi-national not for profit organization in 1987 it assumed the environmental research mission of the DDF, and expanded it to include education and conservation. CEDO inherited the property through a gentleman's agreement from the director of the Desert Development Foundation, Dr. Carl Hodges.

As part of the settlement CEDO will retain approximately five acres of the property it has used to conduct environmental activities on since 1980 and has agreed to purchase the property in its upper level area that Las Fuentes has designated for one condominium. Clifton-Meridian has agreed to cover much of CEDO's legal costs for the settlement.

To cover closing costs, taxes and purchase of the property, CEDO will need to raise \$250,000 by the end of this year in order to secure its property rights and future. The parents of developer Patrick Clifton, long time supporters and friends of CEDO have offered to help with these fundraising efforts.

CEDO will also give up its primary road access to make room for additional condominiums that will be part of the seawater-based development of the Las Fuentes del Mar project. Approximately ¼ mile before the existing turnoff, a new road will lead visitors to a seaside access to the CEDO front door. Primary parking will continue to be located directly off the main Las Conchas road below CEDO.

Visitors will still have the opportunity to stroll the entire CEDO campus through a beautiful winding walkway past exhibits of the Gran Desierto Botanical gardens, the fin whale skeleton and CEDO's Earthship Visitor Center named in honor of Jeanette E. Clifton, the developers' mother and long-time supporter of CEDO. The Clifton-Meridian group will rebuild the CEDO wall and gateway to surround the CEDO properties and provide new signage to lead the way.

The re-configuration of access and new constructions for CEDO will take place beginning in mid April and will be completed within 90 days. CEDO's doors will remain open during this time. An inauguration and fundraising event is planned for sometime in the fall of 2007.

Both CEDO and Clifton-Meridian are looking forward to continuing with their respective projects and to future collaborations in promoting environmentally sound development and conservation. To help CEDO with its fundraising efforts, contact CEDO at (520) 320-5473 or rick@cedointercultural.org

For more information and photos please contact:

Peggy J. Turk Boyer, Executive Director, CEDO Intercultural
Phone in Tucson: 520-320-5473
Email: peggy@cedointercultural.org