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For Immediate Release
June 1, 2010

Contact: Brent Rush
Phone: 760-762-7432

Borax Visitor Center Foundation Grant Applications Available

(Boron) – The Borax Visitor Center Foundation announced today it will accept grant applications through June 18, 2010 from organizations in the communities of Boron, Desert Lake, North Edwards and Aerial Acres, and Kramer Junction.

Applications will only be accepted from non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that focus on education, health and human services, community improvement, or historic preservation.

Applications are available at the Borax Visitor Center or by contacting Brent Rush, Manager of Government Affairs and Communities for Rio Tinto Minerals – Boron Operations at 760-762-7432. All completed applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2010.

Funding for grants comes from Borax Visitor Center admission fees and merchandise sales. In addition, Rio Tinto Minerals employees make tax deductible contributions to the Visitor Center Foundation and Rio Tinto Minerals matches 50% of every dollar contributed by employees.

Grants totaling more than \$175,000 and nearly \$40,000 in scholarships have been returned to the community by the Borax Visitor Center Foundation over the past 10 years.

The Borax Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 per vehicle, \$2 per motorcycle, and \$12 per bus. Students on school field trips are admitted free of charge.

The Borax Visitor Center is operated by Rio Tinto Minerals – Boron Operations, a division of London-based Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto Minerals ships approximately one million tons of refined borates from its mining and refining operations in Boron, California, to customers in nearly 100 countries.

Borates are naturally occurring minerals that are essential to plant growth, part of a healthy human diet, and a key ingredient in the manufacture of glass, fiberglass, ceramics, detergents, fertilizers, wood preservatives and many other products.

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