



# Natina News

## Renaturalizing Nature: Lake Cahuilla



*Brian Hardin  
President  
Natina Products, LLC*

**Project Contractor:**  
*Desert Pipeline*

**Varnish Supplier and  
Application Specialists:**  
*Natina Products, LLC*

Before



After



## Extreme Renaturalization

Touted as “The Gem of the Desert,” the city of La Quinta sits in beautiful Coachella Valley where the preservation of natural beauty is not to be taken lightly. In fact, the area’s own rugged mountain peaks and sun-baked boulders are the basis for the look and feel of this steadily growing community. It’s taken Mother Nature ages to develop the deep, variegated shades of the region’s sepia-tinted terrain, and local officials and residents are committed to maintaining that natural beauty.

The Valley, which includes the cities of La Quinta, Palm Springs, Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert (among several others), gets much of its water from the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD). Serving more than 105,000 homes and businesses, the CVWD has built a number of structures and waterways to accommodate its growing constituency. In 1969, the District con-

structed Lake Cahuilla, at the time the largest soil-cement lined reservoir in the world, to provide greater control over the flow of canal water into the valley. It has also become a popular recreation area, great for fishing, camping and day-use.

More recently, this lake’s surrounding mountain range has been excavated to house a gigantic, much-needed domestic water tank. This type of excavation generally leaves the mountainside with unsightly scarring, in sharp contrast to the natural patina present prior to construction. In addition to completing the installation, project contractor Desert Pipeline had strict orders from the city of La Quinta and the CVWD to ‘renaturalize’ the site, color blending the excavated area to match its deeply hued surroundings.

“Desert cities, especially here in the Coachella Valley, have very specific requirements to keep the aesthetics of



## Concentrate 500 at a glance

**Uses:** Permanent, natural color treatment for rock and concrete surfaces.

**Color:** Earth-tone brown hues.

**Texture:** Matte finish maintains natural appearance.

**Application:** Standard backpack sprayer for smaller jobs. Special equipment sometimes required for larger jobs.



the community consistent,” stated Phil Johnson, president and owner of Desert Pipeline. “As the general contractor, we had to find a solution that would transform the harsh, glaring surface of the excavation site into its former state.”

After much research and several referrals, Johnson narrowed the field to two contenders and decided to go with a relative newcomer in the industry.

“We were extremely impressed with Natina Concentrate 500,” added Johnson. “The formula contains a technologically-advanced, environmentally-friendly composition that lasts more than a lifetime. This, combined with their competitive pricing and installation expertise, gave Natina Products the edge over the competition.”

Working in tandem with Desert Pipeline, Natina’s application specialists began the seemingly daunting task of color blending 10 acres of excavated mountainside. Application via helicopter was necessary to accommodate the extremely steep 1.5 to 1 slopes looming more than 400 feet tall. Nearly half of the overall job was completed with three

application passes in a mere four hours. The remainder was done via Natina’s own self-contained application rig in less than two weeks, and color transition occurred within 10 days.

Residents near Lake Cahuilla are passionate about keeping the area naturally beautiful – and they should be happy for quite some time. Natina’s safe solution creates color that lasts

*“The formula contains a technologically advanced, environmentally-friendly composition that lasts more than a lifetime.”*

up to 100 years by speeding up the oxidation process and restoring the scenic, natural color that takes nature thousands of years to achieve. Today the entire area blends beautifully into the surrounding natural patina, and Desert Pipeline, CVWD and the city of La Quinta could not be happier with the results.

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